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The annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture occurs at the State House on Wednesday and Thursday, January 19 and 20. Several new members will take their seats at that time.

The various agricultural and horticultural organizations the country over, are asking Congress to pass the Hatch bill, for the establishment of State experiment stations. This is a move in the right direction. If we would have our members of Congress carry out our wants, we must first make those wants known,

The *Dairy World* says aptly that food, shelter and drink are the three most important things to be considered in the treatment of cows about to calve. The first should be such as to prevent constipation. Linseed meal or warm soft boiled oats are good for the purpose. The water should be deprived of its chill.

A curious effect of electricity upon plants is chronicled by the Indiana *Farmer*. The rays from a lamp-tower in Davenport, Iowa, illuminate a flower garden a hundred feet distant. Last summer the owner observed what lilies which usually bloomed only in daytime, opened in the night, and that morning glories unclosed their blossoms as soon as the electric light fell on them."

Dr. G. A. Bowen says that since his hired man joined the Grange, there has been so much improvement in him that he is worth $50 a year more than before, and gets it, too. The teachings of the Grange had led the man to be a better farmer, and take better care of tools and stock. Certainly, a man when applying for work can have no better recommendation than to be able to say that he is a member of the Grange.

The 8th National Convention of Agriculturalists will be held in New York city at the Grand Central hotel, under the management of the American Agricultural and Dairy Association, on February 8th and 9th, 1887. These conventions have in the past been interesting events to all classes engaged in agricultural industry, and the addresses made and papers read, have thus far been generally published and commented upon by the press of the country. It is intended to make the next convention greater in interest and importance than any preceding convention. J. H. Reall is President of the Association, and F. K. Morehand, Secretary.

Wet lands should be drained because we cannot unlock the fertility of the soil unless air takes the place of water, says Professor Scott, in the *Agricultural Gazette*. We plan to let water into the soil, as much as to take it out—not merely to carry off the surplus water, but to make the fertilising rain filter through the soil. Amongst other effects, draining improves the texture of soil by making it more porous, drier, looser, and more friable; it makes land more easily worked; it raises the temperature of the soil; it enables a greater variety of crops to be grown; it gives an earlier seed-time and an earlier harvest; and it makes manure more effectual. And even this does not exhaust the practical advantages of draining wet lands.

Members of Congress seem to make the discussions on agricultural measures before them, the occasions for jolly times, and for the cracking of stale jokes at the expense of the agricultural interests of the country. It matters not so much, however, how lightly they esteem us and our business in debate, and we can bear it all, if, when they come to vote, they will let intelligence instead of boys' play govern that vote. It is more than probable, though, that when we claim that agriculture is worthy of respect, there might be a difference of opinion between us and them. At any rate the frivolity at times accompanying the consideration of important agricultural questions, indicates this. It is a credit to our Maine M. C's. that such charges do not apply to them.

The State Board of Agriculture of Connecticut does not seem to be bound to forms and conventionalities, but has a way of its own of lubricating its annual winter meetings with whatever of appropriate accompaniments that will add to the interest, to the pleasure, or to the attractions of the occasion. At their late meeting, held at Torrington, the hall in which the meeting was held was tastily decorated expressly for the occasion, and the exercises were interspersed with singing. Two lady essayists were on the programme, with a poem by a third. This can but do much in popularizing and elevating the business among her people, a most important step in agricultural progress. The first lady essayist was the title of an essay by Miss Sara J. Smith, of Hartford, and the effort was a ples for an education for farmers' daughters, which should elevate and ennoble the labor of the hands, as well as that of the brains. Take them from the schools at fifteen and train them in domestic arts, foster a love of home, encourage industry in the occupations of country life, and help them to lead good, pure and true lives of contentment, in safe and happy homes.

Mr. Jonathan Smith, of Jersey, Eng., writes the *Country Gentleman* after this fashion: For nearly two years now, the exportation of cattle from Jersey to the States has completely ceased that America might have become extinct, sunk with the Oregon beneath the Atlantic, or been transported to another planet to vaccinate it with the newest notions, leaving our poor little Island disconsolate and dollarless. Such utter desertion after so brilliant and short a honeymoon, it is too bad. Here we were gliding gently on in our quiet, simple, old-world fashion, as remote from "rings" and as innocent of "booms" as little maids at school, when all at once there dropped from the clouds a brilliant troop of strangers, who fling gold into our laps without asking. No sooner is a thousand dollars forced upon us for a cow, than another pays it with five thousand for a bull, and another crowns that with five thousand for a bit of a heifer. All our heads are turned, and at my age even, I am tempted to shut my ledgers and take to cattle breeding. Our good time was but an Indian summer, and now we shiver in the winter of discontent; our stalls crammed with cows and calves, and never a buyer. Yes, one has just come along—one, when we want a hundred—and has carried off 24 head. A Jerseyman out in the far west (Mr. C. Le Vesconte of Hastings, Minnesota,) was called home to settle the affairs of his dead brother, and has taken advantage of the present famine prices—famine of *buyers*, I mean—to pick up a few good cattle to take back with him. He is now, or should be safely landed with them at New York. To tempt one or two more to follow his steps, I will shortly describe one or two of his purchases, but I dare not breathe the price.

Care of Stock.

At this season of the year there is much depending on the care given to the domestic animals at the barns. More attention is called for than simply giving them food and water sufficient for their wants. True, food can never be omitted, but it makes a wide difference with the income from the animals kept whether the necessary daily rations be accompanied by other equally important attentions. It is within easy reach to make the same expense of feed through needed care bring to the owner of the stock far more income than would be realized in the absence of this care. We urge good care, then, not from sentiment, but as a matter of business. As a rule stock is kept for what can be obtained of it. Care brings its reward as well as the keep.

The comfort of the animals, of whatever kind without exception, should always be under attention. Everyone knows that warm quarters and a dry bed contribute to the comfort of the animals. No further argument, then, is needed in favor of providing them. There is money to the owner from the comfort provided as from the food given. The pigs and the calves like a warm dry nest to lie down in as much as the owner himself, and if they have it they will compensate for it by increased thrift. There is no reason, then, why either should be allowed to wallow in mire and filth. Care is these matters pays.

Cattle, colts or sheep should never be left out to run in yards through the day unless there is more of quiet comfort there than in their quarters. Stock will bear close and warm quarters than from ventilation. Those who have the care of stock should remember this and act accordingly. This would not hold true indefinitely, but does apply to the extreme cold weather of the winter season. Stock should be supplied with water that is entirely free from from all particles of broken ice. Warming the water may be carrying the matter farther than health would call for, though there is no proof to that effect.

Another matter calling for attention, though not one of comfort, is the advantage of supplying a proper combination of food material. While at the barn stock have no choice but to feed upon what is placed before them. The knowledge we have gained of combining foods for stock is a great advance over former practices. No one material contains the elements needed by the animals fed combined in proportions suited to their wants. The system of mixing these foods as now practiced by the best feeders, better maintains the health of the animals fed, and secures more of thrift and more of profit from the material fed. Though rations may not be compounded by strictly scientific rules, yet an approximation to a correct standard is far ahead in its practical results of the former practice of our kind at a time. The watchful care of the attendant in his efforts to meet the appetites of the stock fed, will lead to the supplying of what is needed. This is the sum of scientific feeding and makes up the substance of good care.

Question.

Can you, or any of the readers of the *Farmer*, tell what ails a cow that to all appearances is perfectly healthy, but her milk after it is twenty-four hours old, has a rank smell, and by the time it is 48 hours old, will scent the whole pantry? I have tried saltpetre, garget root, white beans, iodide of potassa and copperas, but all fail to cure. By answering above you will confer a favor on more than one

SUBSCRIBER.

Bad flavors in milk may be caused by improper surroundings of the cow giving the same, or by improper surrroundings of the milk after it has been drawn. People not familiar with these matters do not realize the danger from improper surroundings. A cow standing where she is constantly exposed to air which is loaded with foul odors from whatever source, will taint the milk she yields as surely as she gives it. This has been the source, (unknown,) of much bad milk. So, too, the milk itself, if allowed to be exposed to improper odors, is sure to be found flavored with the same. In the case referred to above, it cannot be determined without inspection of the premises whether or not the foreign odors and flavors come from the surroundings.

Flavors also come from the food taken. Continued use of foods, faulty in quality, and loaded with objectionable and unusual flavors, are sure to impart objectionable and faulty qualities to the milk which such foods produce. These are not fine-spun theories, but are facts well known to every careful dairyman. The common stock foods if sound and sweet, ought to produce milk of standard quality. If absolutely certain that the trouble comes from neither of these sources, then it may be concluded there is trouble with the cow herself. Tubercles found in the udder sometimes break down and discharge into the milk sinuses, tainting the milk. Pus from any source discharged in similar manner would have the same effect.

The Outlook.

A decidedly hopeful view is taken of the outlook for the sheep industry of this country by the American Sheep Breeder and Wool Grower, (Chicago.) After all it may safely be said that it is never best to abandon an industry on account of depressions, which experience long ago proved will only be of limited duration. It is certain that a well conducted sheep husbandry may be relied on to stand by those who follow it faithfully. We give the article referred to above:

A pile of letters on our desk, some of which will be found elsewhere, give ample evidence that the flock masters and sheep growers throughout the country feel inspired with new hope and anticipate a period of prosperity such as has not been known for a term of years. Alike in Maine and California, the owners of flocks or of ranches have abandoned any intention they may have formerly had, to sacrifice them in despair. Men who sold out less than one year ago, are casting about for a chance to buy sheep, or failing in this, to get them on shares. New methods of conducting the industry are coming into vogue, especially in the West. Speakers at Farmers' Institutes are no longer afraid to tell their auditors that sheep husbandry has been unfortunately the best paying stock business through a series of years that has been carried on in the country. Prices of sheep and wool have advanced by leaps and bounds during the past summer. These and other facts, that might easily be adduced, attest the fact that agricultural industry has entered on an era of successes.

We fully expect that speculators will not lose sight of the opportunity presented them to make a "rush," now that wool and mutton-producing animals are looking up. This class of men are of course fully entitled to invest their capital as they see fit, but they cannot be credited with fostering a pursuit from which they are ready to withdraw when a season of temporary adversity sets it. It is the men who "stick to it" that deserve the honor of being the true friends of sheep raising. For their sake we are glad that the tide has turned, and that success is about to crown their long waiting.

In the meantime, we advise that every effort be made to keep the sheep in thriving condition. The outlook may be full of incendiant dangers for all kinds of stock, especially the sheep. Keep them in good sheds and give them good food, so that their fleeces may have weight and staple, and their bodies be vigorous and likely to live. The utmost care and vigilance is required to make sheep breeding a success at any time. On the ranches, corrals have been too much neglected, and the penny-wise and pound-foolish policy of trusting to the remote possibility of a winter free from storms fatal to all kinds of stock, is what makes so many flock owners discouraged. The annual losses in winter tell the story of neglect. Sheep may roam the range for nine months, but that is no reason why during the remaining three months, they should be left to the mercy of fierce storms that usually do come. Eastern men cannot understand why it is that the rangemen are often so forgetful to provide shelter, and when they hear of losses attribute to the climate what is due to neglect of ordinary precautions. The West needs to copy the Easterner's method of sheltering and caring for his sheep, while the latter wants to get some of the hardihood possessed by the ranger's sturdy flocks. Neither pampering nor neglect will bring sheep or any other kind of stock into the best condition. Choose a middle ground as the safer and more desirable one. With a prospective shortage in the great wool producing regions of the world, with a slowly increasing demand for good mutton, with a widespread desire to increase our flocks; what more can sheep men ask outside of legislative measures? We congratulate them on the future.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

"Stock the Basin."

"I want to caution the farmers of Maine not to let their heads swim over the idea that there is much of a bonanza in bone meal or superphosphate that cost $30 to $40 a ton."

Such is the substance of the language that I used in an article in the *Maine Farmer* not long ago. And for advocating such an idea, Mr. Kendall of Bowdoinham, charges me with making an attack on him and his business. And in doing so he reminds me of an old colored preacher, when he tried to quote scripture he said, "the wicked run when nobody arter 'im." He also charges me with the enormous crime of acting in the capacity of a public instructor, a position for which I am not responsible. To the last charge I will say that in all my efforts to shape public opinion, or to give information to my brother farmers, I have always tried to get down to bed-rock principles, and advocate nothing on any methods of farming that would not stand the most scrutinizing analysis.

Mr. Kendall says that it is evident that I think that barn manure is the cheapest manurial agent that can be employed by the farmers of Maine to build up the fertility of their farms. To that I most emphatically say that I do, and I think that I am not alone in my belief. I think that the great majority of the farmers of this State have the same opinion; it is a fact so well established that no highfaluting sophistry of any superphosphate manufacturer can overthrow it. And I am ready to prove my faith by my works. I accept your challenge to try the results of barn manure vs. fertilizers, in a public manner, or under the supervision of the Sagadahoc Agricultural and Horticultural Society. I am not hardly stupid enough to accept in the way that you propose, for I have always preached the doctrine that no farmer could afford to buy stable manure and pay $3 or $4 a cord, and haul the same three or four miles to raise hay on. We will take ten acres, as you propose; you may select your plot in any place that you may please, and I will do the same. Of course I shall take a plot on or near my farm, so that I can use the manure that I make on my farm, as this is the point in dispute, barn manure vs. goods we can buy at the fertilizer factory. I will charge the land with what the manure costs me applied to the land, and you to charge the price of your fertilizers and cost of applying the same; an itemized account to be kept and given to the public yearly. The methods of applying manures, fertilizers, or seeding, to be done as we can agree upon at the committee who shall have charge of it to be the judges of the condition of the land, both before and after the trial.

You say that our brother farmers will claim from us practical proof to demonstrate the truth of our side of the question. In that I agree with you, and will further say that if you should not accept the terms I propose, I will put my farm against yours for a trial of five years. I will use the manure made on the farm, and you to use commercial fertilizers.

My farm is 17 miles away from those desirable gardens of the Kennebec, and have only heard and read so much about them, that I am not alone in my belief. I think that the great majority of the farmers of this State have the same opinion; it is a fact so well established that no highfaluting sophistry of any superphosphate manufacturer can overthrow it. And I am ready to prove my faith by my works. I accept your challenge to try the results of barn manure vs. fertilizers, in a public manner, or under the supervision of the Sagadahoc Agricultural and Horticultural Society. I am not hardly stupid enough to accept in the way that you propose, for I have always preached the doctrine that no farmer could afford to buy stable manure and pay $3 or $4 a cord, and haul the same three or four miles to raise hay on. We will take ten acres, as you propose; you may select your plot in any place that you may please, and I will do the same. Of course I shall take a plot on or near my farm, so that I can use the manure that I make on my farm, as this is the point in dispute, barn manure vs. goods we can buy at the fertilizer factory. I will charge the land with what the manure costs me applied to the land, and you to charge the price of your fertilizers and cost of applying the same; an itemized account to be kept and given to the public yearly. The methods of applying manures, fertilizers, or seeding, to be done as we can agree upon at the committee who shall have charge of it to be the judges of the condition of the land, both before and after the trial.

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My farm is 17 miles away from those delectable gardens of the Kennebec, and have only heard and read so much about them, that I am, after harvest, in company with some friends, I took an opportunity of looking them over, and when I was there boasting my eyes on those broad acres, I could not help but think that I realized the force of that old saying, that "distance lends enchantment to the view." I thought that if 75 tons of fertilizers had been applied to those fields, there would be vigorous growth and likely to live. The utmost care and vigilance is required to make sheep breeding a success at any time. On the ranches, corrals have been too much neglected, and the penny-wise and pound-foolish policy of trusting to the remote possibility of a winter free from storms fatal to all kinds of stock, is what makes so many flock owners discouraged. The annual losses in winter tell the story of neglect. Sheep may roam the range for nine months, but that is no reason why during the remaining three months, they should be left to the mercy of fierce storms that usually do come. Eastern men cannot understand why it is that the rangemen are often so forgetful to provide shelter, and when they hear of losses attribute to the climate what is due to neglect of ordinary precautions. The West needs to copy the Easterner's method of sheltering and caring for his sheep, while the latter wants to get some of the hardihood possessed by the ranger's sturdy flocks. Neither pampering nor neglect will bring sheep or any other kind of stock into the best condition. Choose a middle ground as the safer and more desirable one. With a prospective shortage in the great wool producing regions of the world, with a slowly increasing demand for good mutton, with a widespread desire to increase our flocks; what more can sheep men ask outside of legislative measures? We congratulate them on the future.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Apple Maggot.

In the *Farmer* of the 23d inst. you ask your readers if there is any appearance of the apple maggot in their winter fruit. I have been picking my fall apples since September, and infer that they leave the apples early in the fall and go into the ground. The worm, or rather the slug, as it resembles a slug, having no legs, is about the shape of a pea, and when the apples fall the paths can be plainly seen through the apples in winter by cutting a thin slice and holding it between the eye and a light. These paths are attached to early sweet apples about eight years old, and have continued to increase till the past season. Two years ago they spoiled all my apples except the Black Oxfords, Baldwins, and some apples which I gave away. This season I have never seen in my reading any remedy to prevent the depredations of these destructive pests.

Last season when the apple trees were in blossom, and again when the apples were about as large as filberts, I gave, as an experiment, a few of my best fruit trees a thorough dusting with dry ashes, by throwing on the trees, the branches and leaves of the trees immediately after a rain or heavy dew. This experiment I tried on my Wealthy and Early Harvests, which had been the most destructive sorts for a few years past. In the fall about one-third of the apples, on each tree dusted, fell off when about two-thirds grown and were badly infested with the maggot, and fed to hogs. Those that remained on the trees grew to a large size and were perfectly free from the apple maggot, while the season previous I did not have a sound apple on either of those variety of trees. Nearly all the orchards in the village where the trees are set close together, have been badly infected by these pests, while in the orchards of our farmers in this vicinity, where trees have more room, they have not been so destructive. Several of our farmers tell me that as yet these maggots have only infested their sweet apples, and that they were not so plenty last year as in years previous.

T. S. M.

Brunswick.

For the Maine Farmer.

Is Perfection Practicable?

Editor of the Maine Farmer: It has been my habit for some years to visit my cheese-making brethren whenever the opportunity offered. On the last occasion of a call on my friend Smith, I found him at the factory, but the door stood invitingly open, and I pushed in to see what I should find. On the table I noticed some sheets of manuscript, and at a glance found they referred to cheese making, and carefully I stirred, to his remarkable story, and I read the pages over. Fearing that the modesty of my friend might prevent his offering his dream to the public, I pocketed the sheets and brought it to you. I send them to you as an interesting contribution to cheese literature, and would call attention to the singular felicity of that situation in dreamland where perfection is native to their own interests, and the knotty questions of cream in the whey, floating curds, taints, and all unpleasant things were unknown.

FRANCIS BARNES.

One day, not long since, I was at home, tired with the heat and work of the day. These burdens had been aggravated in their pressure by a wrangle with some of the milkmen in the morning, who complained that the milk was good enough, and that I was a fool for thinking otherwise. The condition of the curd had been such that only the most careful attention to minute details had saved the cheese from practical failure. When, therefore, the load of care was laid aside, and I rested a few moments in the cool sitting room, it was not an unlikely event that I should fall asleep. I could guess that I did fall asleep, I seemed to awake, but in a new place, and with surroundings unfamiliar to a certain extent. I was in a cheese factory, at the morning hour, and the milk was fast coming in. The room was large, the room was of fair size, the walls and above ceiled over with matched lumber, two large vats in the centre, and two very large presses on two sides of the room. These latter were made on the principle of the "Iowa cheese curds of the day before. How came two presses to be full, with only two vats to hold the milk? was the question which came at once to me, and I got the rules and the answer to my question, I turned to the maker or head man of the establishment, who was in middle life, tall and spare, and pleasing exterior. He was occupied with various duties on the floor of the room, while a younger man, also neat and comely, was attending to a current of milk, which in constant stream was pouring through the liter whirler. The maker very responded to my query, and an interesting conversation ensued.

"We are now receiving the morning mess of milk, simply. Our milk comes twice in the day, and the second portion is always filled with the curd of the milk of last night, which was made up in the night hours, and put to press since twelve o'clock."

I then glanced about the room with more particular attention, and I saw numerous lamps with brilliant reflectors, so arranged, that the apartment would be flooded with light when needed.

"But how comes this, that your patrons will deliver milk twice a day, and that you can afford to run night and day?"

"Our factory is the property of the center of a community of enterprising, calculating farmers, who are all stocked with the Jersey breed of cows, and they are as good Jerseys as the world can show. These men are all firm in the belief that in points of high flavor and absolute richness, their milk cannot be excelled. They sometime since, became satisfied that this milk would make most superior cheese if it were not for injurious manipulations between the moment of milking and the putting of the cheese on to the plate of the consumer. They also, with a most singular penetration, grasped the idea that with themselves, their own care of the milk, lay most of the burden of making sure the profitable result. The whole community became thoroughly inbred in these ideas, and, when a man, agreed to enter upon the manufacture of a quality of cheese which should be creditable to the milk they owned. With this end in view they came to me and said, 'Go into our factory and do this work for us, and we will give you business sufficient to make it remunerative. We will furnish the milk morning and night. Each mess shall be carefully aired, stirred, and cooled in water for at least three quarters of an hour from the time of milking until it starts to you. This will be the rule, for our own self interest prompts us to do our part.'"

The attention of the maker was now called to some matter of detail, and I was left to myself to reflect for a moment upon this most remarkable state of things that I had stumbled upon. I went up to the vat near the strainer, through which the milk at last flowed. The vat had near 4500 lbs. of milk in it, but there was nothing on that strainer cloth more than a few bubbles and a stray bit of straw. I seized the dipper and plunged it into the creamy mass, eager to get a taste of such milk, presented by such men. What a draught that was! Cool, delicious, aromatic! As I quaffed that liquid I could not help saying, "What a glorious bounty, this one perfect good is to man, from our beneficent Creator!" My curiosity was stimulated to the utmost pitch. "Tell me again," I cried to the maker, as he came toward me, "do you *always* find the milk in this condition?"

"Most assuredly I do, for my patrons know that no other condition of the milk would be profitable to them.

I then began questioning on details of the factory work, and learned that through the warm months the maker himself was present in the factory certain hours both night and day. "When the curd of the second vat is ready to dip I leave the building, and the day foreman looks after the finishing up of all the work. So in the night, as soon as the character of the curd is made certain I give up care to the night crew. The crews alternate with each other in succeeding weeks, between the day and the night watches. We make up the milk of Saturday night, and then close the building till Monday morning. In the cool months when matters are very regular and the curds slow, I alternate with my chief foreman, as exercise of my skill, and am in the building for but once in the twenty-four hours."

"Come and see our curing room and the cellar underneath, I have a little bit of leisure just now." We passed into the room, and through the outer door to the inner one, which effectually cut off communication with the external air, we came to the conclusive proof of the fitness of the work made on the farm against commercial fertilizers. I will charge the land with what the manure costs me applied to the land, and you to charge the price of your fertilizers and cost of applying the same; an itemized account to be kept and given to the public yearly. The methods of applying manures, fertilizers, or seeding, to be done as we can agree upon at the committee who shall have charge of it to be the judges of the condition of the land, both before and after the trial.

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For the Maine Farmer.

Rotation of Cropping.

Mr. Editor: Now that the short winter days are upon us for the night and earnest, we have time to think and plan future improvements and work for the coming spring. I think rotation of cropping demands a little of our earnest and earliest consideration, when we have so much of our run out and weathered fields. What shall we do with them? A good many answer this problem, but scarcely any two alike. Well, there is nothing like having different experiences on the subject, so I venture to put forward mine in rotation of cropping. We have, perhaps, two or three fields on the farm that are scarcely worth mowing. I would select one of them, certainly the poorest, to begin with. One will already plowed, plow it up as soon as the frost is out, sowing oats as soon as the land is in condition, using no manure. Then harrow in plaster and roll. When oats are harvested, plow deep for next year's crop, which will be principally roots—turnips, carrots, beets, potatoes and corn. Now this field requires all the manure we have on our farm, and more money. If you do not put all of it under a few bills of potatoes, leaving nothing for the rest, as some of my neighbors do. Make it spin out as well as you can, breaking all the lumps down with the fork, and spread equally along the bottom of the drill, using some good fertilizer along with your manure, the quantity to be determined by the quantity and quality of your barn manure. The following year sow it with barley or oats, seeding it down to grass. An application of lime, or ground bone, answers admirably on seeding down, each year breaking up another piece of the worst land.

I think I hear some of our farmers say, that is too much work, it won't pay. Well, we and our predecessors have ruined our farms by a continual growing and selling of the best portion and a few poor crops will wake up and renew our soil, enabling us in a little while to keep a sufficient number of cattle, and that is the sure and only way for a farmer to build on. Some one may say planting one year will not insure us a good crop of hay for the next fifteen or twenty years. No, I don't expect it will, but we are compelled to leave the old lands and go to new, living, working over all our fields we must commence on field No. 1, again. No need to stop; besides, we cannot afford to stop, we have lots of cattle by this time depending largely on what we feed, chiefly on hay, and the grain we are depending on now for a living, not hay. We shall soon see the day when a load of good, clean, newly threshed oat straw will be worth nearly as much on the farm as a load of old field hay. For one reason every farmer should have a threshing machine in his barn to furnish newly threshed straw two or three times a week for his stock, as I have found by actual test on the farm, but there is not a farmer in Maine but knows he ought to keep more help if he could afford it. This rotation style of farming is going to bring you more money on fewer acres, and you can afford to have them. We must not begin too strong for our means, but work ourselves gradually in. This in no new fangled humbug, but a well tried and trodden path.

SYLVANDER.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Apple Maggot.

In the *Farmer* of the 23d inst. you ask your readers if there is any appearance of the apple maggot in their winter fruit. I have been picking my fall apples since September, and infer that they leave the apples early in the fall and go into the ground. The worm, or rather the slug, as it resembles a slug, having no legs, is about the shape of a pea, and when the apples fall the paths can be plainly seen through the apples in winter by cutting a thin slice and holding it between the eye and a light. These paths are attached to early sweet apples about eight years old, and have continued to increase till the past season. Two years ago they spoiled all my apples except the Black Oxfords, Baldwins, and some apples which I gave away. This season I have never seen in my reading any remedy to prevent the depredations of these destructive pests.

Last season when the apple trees were in blossom, and again when the apples were about as large as filberts, I gave, as an experiment, a few of my best fruit trees a thorough dusting with dry ashes, by throwing on the trees, the branches and leaves of the trees immediately after a rain or heavy dew. This experiment I tried on my Wealthy and Early Harvests, which had been the most destructive sorts for a few years past. In the fall about one-third of the apples, on each tree dusted, fell off when about two-thirds grown and were badly infested with the maggot, and fed to hogs. Those that remained on the trees grew to a large size and were perfectly free from the apple maggot, while the season previous I did not have a sound apple on either of those variety of trees. Nearly all the orchards in the village where the trees are set close together, have been badly infected by these pests, while in the orchards of our farmers in this vicinity, where trees have more room, they have not been so destructive. Several of our farmers tell me that as yet these maggots have only infested their sweet apples, and that they were not so plenty last year as in years previous.

T. S. M.

Brunswick.

For the Maine Farmer.

Advice to Farmers.

We are surely in need of new ideas in regard to farming operations in Maine. Not all kinds of produce are down to a low point we must learn to face the situation. There was a time once when farming was booming, that animals could be wintered in a careless way and allowed to go back nearly as much in winter as they would gain in the summer, and still the high price would make this half year growing process a success, but with the present low prices it will not do. There is but one way with all our animals, and that is to feed high and keep them growing every day in the year. We would not advise farmers to jump into new things because they boom, but keep a steady hand; keep a mixed stock, sheep, cattle and horses; but be sure and make each animal heavier and better each day. If not, we lose the keeping; as we do not get any seasonable rises, all of these animals are worth about the same the year round, which is brought about by the great facilities of our railroad systems to bring the great fertile West close to our doors. If it pays to keep any animal at all, it pays to keep it well and gaining. The farmers who carry a steady hand and raise a mixed crop and a mixed class of stock, will be sure to hit well somewhere; and if he keeps well posted on prices, and feeds well enough to have something fitted for market all the time, he can take advantage of slight fluctuations and get a good price for all of his products. It is necessary now-a-days for our farmers to have more education and intelligence. The ignoramus and slothful fellow does not want to try to get a living farming these times. He is better adapted to shovel gravel, or work at some business that does not require brains, as the farming in New England is working down to a science and requires scientific research and experimenting, careful investigation, necessitating the keeping of books and accounts with various operations, so we can tell what crop pays best, what breed will increase farm values most on same amount of feed. This course of keeping accounts not only gives the farmer these necessary facts, but it brightens up his ideas, gives him taste for reading other peoples' experiments, and tends to elevate the man and make him a more valuable citizen.

I. C. LIBBY.

Reported for the Maine Farmer.

A Day at the Oxford County Poultry and Dog Exhibition at South Paris.

As usual, cold weather comes with the opening of the hen show, and the mercury dropped at once to twenty below when the cocks began to crow at South Paris, last week.

During the fall the breeders of Oxford county met and organized a new poultry association, and began the work of preparation for this exhibition. Though located somewhat off the direct line of travel through the State, and in one of the northern counties, they moved in the work with a will, and put forth an attractive premium list, with a fair number of specials. The result was a good exhibition, though somewhat limited on account of the extortionate express rates charged by the American Express Co. The Grand Trunk and Canadian Express kindly gave free returns to stock and visitors, and breeders on this line availed themselves of the opportunity to exhibit their choice chickens, and exchange greetings with other breeders. The show of poultry was held in Odd Fellows' Hall, and that of dogs in Engine Hall. We missed the breeders from the eastern part of the State, who, with their fine stock, would have won a good share of the premiums.

The Light Brahma was a remarkably fine class, composed of 14 pairs and 3 breeding pens; Darks, 2 pairs; Langshans, 3; P. Cochins, 3; Buff, 1; P. Rocks and White P. R., 20; Wyandotte, 17; Yellow Duckwing Game, 2; Black B. R. Games, 2; White Leghorns, 5; Brown's, 4; Toulouse Geese, 3; Pekin Ducks, 2; Muscovy, 3; Brown Turkey, 4; Bronze Bantams, 1; Rose Comb W. Leghorns, 2; S. S. Hamburg, 1; W. C. B. Polish, 1; B. B. R. Game Bantams, 2; Pekin Bantams, 1.

Breeding pens—Plymouth Rocks, 2; White Leghorns, 2; Langshan, 1; Brown Leghorn, 2; Golden Hamburg, 1; S. P. Hamburg, 1; Light Brahma, 3; Buff Cochin, 1; making 107 coops in all.

Breeders exhibiting were:

Wyandottes—Ben. V. Eston, Oxford; C. Leonard Stone, Paris; A. M. Fogg, Turner; Colby & Bowker, Waterville; E. P. Atwood, Auburn; Geo. E. Buck, So. Paris; A. E. Shurtleff, So. Paris; W. H. Howard, Portland; I. N. Haskell, Auburn; L. T. Millett, West Minot; S. P. Robie, Lewiston.

Langshans—C. Leonard Stone, Paris; H. O. Blake, Oxford; W. R. Howard, Portland.

Erminetts—C. L. Stone.

Light Brahmas—A. M. Fogg, Turner; C. A. Bailey, No. Auburn; H. T. Linscott, Brownfield; John Pickard, Auburn; E. C. Hanscom, Oxford; Oliver Shurtleff, South Paris; I. N. Haskell, Auburn; A. E. Shurtleff, So. Paris; H. C. Day, Auburn.

Buff Cochins—A. M. Fogg, Turner.

Plymouth Rocks—C. A. Bailey, N. Auburn; Plymouth Co. Penney, Mechanic Falls; Fred E. Hall, So. Paris; Allie Williams, So. Paris; A. E. Shurtleff, So. Paris; A. E. Morse, So. Paris; G. M. Twitchell, Readfield; L. B. Gurney, Norway; I. N. Haskell, Auburn; L. T. Millett, West Minot.

Turkeys—C. A. Bailey, N. Auburn; Robert Ingalls, Portland; A. E. Shurtleff, So. Paris; G. A. Upton, Norway.

R. C. W. Leghorn—Chas. V. Penney, Mechanic Falls; I. N. Haskell, Auburn.

Silver Spangled Hamburgs—E. P. Atwood, Auburn.

Muscovy Ducks—Geo. A. Bemaman, So. Paris.

Dark Brahmas—A. E. Shurtleff, So. Paris; I. N. Haskell, Auburn.

Golden Penciled and Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, Red, Pile Game, Black, Brown, Red Game, Silver Duckwing Game and W. Crested White Polish—W. R. Howard, Portland.

Pekin Bantam—I. N. Haskell, Auburn.

Partridge Cochin—A. E. Shurtleff, So. Paris.

White Leghorn—A. E. Shurtleff, Geo. P. Tucker, So. Paris.

Toulouse Geese—A. E. Shurtleff.

Pekin Ducks—A. E. Shurtleff; B. Bacon, Jr.

B. B. R. G. Bantam—B. Bacon; I. N. Haskell, Auburn.

Brown Leghorns—William H. Blake, So. Paris; G. P. Tucker, So. Paris; L. T. Millett, West Minot.

The Dog Show was held in Engine Hall, and it was here that the interest seemed to centre. We found the following classes represented:

Scotch Collie—W. F. Foster, So. Paris; I. N. McKenney, Auburn; A. T. Maxim, So. Paris.

Native Fox Hound—S. C. Shaw, So. Paris; Edward Raynes, Yarmouth; A. M. Gerry, So. Paris.

Bull and Tan Terrier—C. Leonard Stone, So. Paris; Harry P. Ellis, So. Paris.

Spaniels—Chas. Brett, So. Paris; Chas. Prescott, So. Paris; C. E. Rines, Norway; I. D. Shaw, So. Paris; Wm. Dean, So. Paris; Herbert L. Swift, So. Paris.

English Mastiff—G. H. Porter, So. Paris; G. M. Shaw, So. Paris; A. K. Jackson, So. Paris.

Fox Hound—A. M. Dunham, Norway; Geo. F. Edwards, Oxford; L. N. Edwards, Oxford; Gilman Perley, So. Paris; John L. Tubbs, Norway; D. A. Crawford, No. Paris.

Bull dog—Con Bailey, Norway; L. W. Jackson, So. Paris.

English Beagle—So. Paris Beagle Club, six entries; E. W. Dutton, West Paris; R. L. Mall, So. Paris.

Newfoundland—E. B. Holden, So. Paris.

Gordon Setter—C. A. Bailey, No. Auburn.

Half breed hound—H. L. Linscott, Brownfield.

Cocker Spaniel—N. M. Dunham, Norway.

English Setter—E. W. Dutton, West Paris; W. M. Shaw, So. Paris; G. C. Cobb, So. Paris.

Dalmation—J. F. McArdle, So. Paris.

Italian Greyhound—T. A. Kenney, So. Paris.

Scotch Terrier—H. H. Nulty, Buckfield.

Irish Pointer—T. P. Richardson, So. Paris.

There was a fine exhibit of fifty-two dogs, nearly all owned in Oxford county. Many are rare specimens. The English Beagles are as fine as we have ever seen in any show, and are of the choicest strains.

This being the annual meeting, the Grange proceeded to election of officers, with following result:

Master—J. W. Lang, Bowdoinham.

Overseer—W. Dunton, W. Bath.

Lecturer—T. H. Sprague, Topsham.

Steward—C. P. Edgecomb, Topsham.

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Jan. 6, 1887.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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Collectors' Notices.

J. W. KELLOGG will call upon our subscribers in Androscoggin county during January.

C. S. ATER will call upon our subscribers in West Kennebec county during January.

Happy New Year to all our readers.

We have a good report of the proceedings of the Maine Pedagogical Society, which we are obliged to defer until next week.

Mr. I. C. Libby, of Burnham, is practicing what he preaches, by feeding at his farm a thousand head of sheep.

The Probate Court of Franklin county has decided that the will of Mrs. Belcher shall stand.

Prof. Charles H. Benjamin, who for six years past has filled the chair of Mechanical Engineering at the Maine State College, has resigned to go into business in Boston.

Gen. John Marshall Brown has resigned his position as Brigadier General, commanding the First Brigade, Maine Volunteer Militia. Col. H. L. Mitchell of Bangor, is prominently mentioned for the position.

The case of Henry A. Dexter of Wayne, against the Canton Bridge Company for $6000 damages, for injuries sustained the 13th of last March, in the Canton bridge breaking down, consumed five days' time in the Superior Court in this city, and resulted in a verdict for Dexter for $3745.33.

At last week's session of the Executive Council the petitioners for the pardon of Benj. W. Chadbourne were given leave to withdraw; also those for the pardon of Lewis E. Hopkins, the Richmond murderer; and the petitioners for the pardon of James McCune of Biddeford, received leave to withdraw. John F. Lawrence was refused a pardon.

The closest observers give it as their opinion that since the tax was imposed upon oleomargarine, the butter-substitute trade has received a blow from which it will not soon recover. Only a little over 1,000,000 pounds of the article are now used per month in the United States, about one-tenth of the amount formerly consumed.

We know our readers will be glad that we have this week delayed for several hours the publication of the *Farmer*, in order to publish in full the excellent Inaugural Address of Gov. Bodwell, delivered this noon. It is an able, practical, business-like and comprehensive document, dealing with subjects of vital interest to the people of the State, and we commend its reading and careful consideration to all.

The proprietors of the *Boston Herald* have joined the procession of those who are willing to share with their employés the result of their joint earnings. On New Year's day they announced to their employés a proposition to give them for the current year a portion of the business, after receiving the interest on the value of the property, the employés to share in proportion to the wages during the year. They also suggest to their employés the formation of a mutual benefit society, promising to contribute an amount equal to the aggregate contribution of the employés. The proprietors say in their circular announcing the proposition: "We hope that this experiment may be so successful, that the profit-sharing may be adopted by us a permanent policy."

Hon. Frederick Robie, who this week closes his term of four years as Chief Executive of the State, need have no fears concerning the verdict of the public upon his official acts. He has been a wise, conservative and careful official, devoting time and attention to all the details of his official duties. Popular among the people, having in large measures their confidence, which he has ever retained, moving among the people as one of their number, he takes high rank among the popular officials who have filled the Executive chair, and as he becomes once more a private citizen, he will retain the good will and kindly wishes of his fellow citizens, regardless of party affiliations or denominational and sectarian lines.

Tobogganing is all the rage now, with all the excitement and few of the dangers of the old-time fashion of sliding down hill. People who like the sensation of falling from a height without getting hurt ought to be satisfied with the toboggan slide in Tuxedo park, New York. This starts with a smart drop of 40 feet, continues with 200 feet of moderate incline, again drops 30 feet at a sharp angle, then 500 feet of moderate pitch, and then comes a slight rise that is the prelude to another breath-snatching drop, after which the remainder of the slope is comparatively gentle. The course is upwards of a mile in length, and is traversed in thirty seconds. Two miles a minute is pretty fast travelling.

The Tuxedo should please the most exacting tobogganer. Those whom it does not suit would be content with nothing short of a slide down Mount Washington or a jump from Washington Monument.

The smallest amount of shipbuilding in Maine for ten years has been done the past year. In 1877 the net tonnage of the vessels constructed in Maine shipyards amounted to 76,826.33 tons. From 1877 to 1881 there was a large decrease in the amount of work done, but in 1882 the number of tons constructed amounted to 75,084.91. Since then each year has witnessed the total suspension of work in an increasing number of yards, until only 18,094.70 tons has been constructed this year. At the present time the only demand for vessels is for fishing purposes and the coasting trade. The number of four-masted schooners constructed the past year is larger than in 1884 or 1885, as that has been proved to be the most economical kind of vessel for use at the present time. As a rule there has been a decrease in the average size of vessels from 1882, and more schooners under 100 tons have been built than for any year except 1885, during the past decade.

The sixty-third legislature met at the State House, Wednesday forenoon, and organized. In the Senate, S. S. Marble of Lincoln county, was chosen President; Charles W. Tilden, Hallowell, Secretary; Kendall M. Dunbar, Damariscotta, Assistant Secretary; Charles Lovejoy, Augusta, Messenger; Ernest M. Wheeler, Augusta, Messenger; A. B. T. Chadbourne, Foxcroft. In the House, Charles E. Littlefield of Rockland, was chosen Speaker; Nicholas Fessenden of Fort Fairfield, Clerk; W. S. Cotton, Jr., of Lisbon, Assistant Clerk; W. J. Smith of Litchfield, Messenger; Geo. H. Fisher of Winterport, Assistant Messenger; F. A. Stevens of Monroe, Second Assistant Messenger; James E. Wade of Augusta, Folder. Thursday morning was devoted to the usual preliminary business, and at noon, in the presence of both branches, Hon. Joseph R. Bodwell, Gov. elect, took upon himself the oaths of office, and delivered his Inaugural Address. See elsewhere.

At the democratic caucus, Tuesday evening, the following officers were nominated: Secretary of State, W. H. Moody, Lib-ority; Adjutant General, John J. Lynch, Portland; Attorney General, D. J. McGillicuddy, Lewiston; State Treasurer, Frank W. Nutter, Saco.

Councillors—First District, Alfred S. Kimball, Norway; Second, Thomas B. Haskell, Cape Elizabeth; Third, S. C. Belcher, Benj. W. Chadbourne were given leave to withdraw; also those for the pardon of Lewis E. Hopkins, the Richmond murderer; and the petitioners for the pardon of James McCune of Biddeford, received leave to withdraw. John F. Lawrence was refused a pardon.

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Councillors—First District, Alfred S. Kimball, Norway; Second, Thomas B. Haskell, Cape Elizabeth; Third, S. C. Belcher, Bath; Fourth, Benj. F. Parrott, Augusta; Fifth, Mr. Webb, Deer Isle; Sixth, Wm. P. Thompson, Brunswick; Seventh, Horace M. Leighton, Columbia Falls.

Senators-elect—President, S. J. Gushee, Appleton; Secretary, C. W. Junkins, York. Officers of the House—Speaker, E. K. Hastings of Fryeburg, was chosen chairman of the meeting of the republican State Committee, held Wednesday, Joseph H. Manley of Augusta, was unanimously re-elected chairman.

Make-Up of the Legislature.

Some interesting facts have been collected concerning the legislature which assembled in this city yesterday, by Mr. Howard Owen, in the preparation of Volume Thirteen of his Biographical Sketches of Members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Complete returns have been obtained from the entire Senatorial Board—31 members. In politics the Senate stands as follows:

Republicans,	27
Democrats,	3
Anti-Monopolist,	1
Total,	31

The oldest member is Senator Cole of Cumberland, who is 78; the next oldest is Senator Marble of Lincoln, who is 69. The youngest member is Senator Weymouth of York, who is 38; the next youngest are Senator Simpson of Penobscot, and Senator Jones of York, who are each 31. Only one of the members is between 20 and 30, nine between 30 and 40, eleven between 40 and 50, six between 50 and 60, three between 60 and 70, and one between 70 and 80. Ten were born in the towns where they now reside; only one was born out of the State; five received a collegiate education, fifteen an academical education; five were engaged in the civil war; twenty-three have had legislative experience; all are married but two. Other facts are compiled as follows:

PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.

Merchants,	6
Lawyers,	4
Farmers,	3
Physicians,	3
Merchants and Lumbermen,	3
Farmer and Butcher, Farmer and Lumberman, Lumber Dealer, Ship Owner, Manufacturer, Miller, Machinist and Merchant, Pharmacist, Insurance Agent, R. R. President, Treasurer Savings Bank, Ship Builder and Commission Merchant, Paymaster, each.	1

RELIGION.

Congregationalist,	9
Methodist,	5
Universalist,	4
Free Baptist,	4
Baptist,	3
Liberal,	2
Unitarian,	1
No religious preferences,	3
No religious preferences reported,	2

The Maine House of Representatives is comprised of 151 members. We find the political complexion of the present House as follows:

Republicans,	122
National Prohibition,	26
Independents,	2
Total,	151

Nineteen of the above have furnished no data for biographical notes, but their names and politics appear in the proper places in the sketches. Of the members who have furnished Mr. Owen with complete statistics, the following facts are collated: The oldest member is Hon. William Dickey of Fort Kent, who is 76. He with Hon. John C. Talbot of East Machias, have the longest legislative experience. The next oldest member is Isaac Carleton, Esq., of Columbia Falls, who is 74. The youngest members are Randall J. Condon, Esq., of Friendship, and Austin W. York, Esq., of Damariscotta, who are each 24. Four of the members are between 20 and 30 years of age, thirty-five between 30 and 40, fifty between 40 and 50, thirty-four between 50 and 60, six between 60 and 70, and two between 70 and 80. This shows an unusually large number of middle aged men in the body. Sixty were born in the towns they represent; four were born out of the State, and four out of the country; fourteen received a collegiate education, forty-two an academical education; twenty-eight were engaged in the civil war; but sixteen have had legislative experience; eighteen are not married. All the constitutional occupations and many of the religions are embraced in our list. Other interesting statistics are given as follows, the farmers, as usual, leading the list of occupations.

PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.

Farmers,	
Farmers and Teachers,	40
Farmers and Merchants,	3
Farmers and Physicians,	3
Farmers and Cattle Brokers,	2
Farmers and Mechanics,	2
Farmers and Lumbermen,	2
Farmer and Ship Builder,	1
Farmer and Collector,	1
Merchants,	
Lawyers,	26
Physicians,	14
Manufacturers,	6
Mechanics,	4
Journalists,	3
Contractors and Builders,	3
Merchants and Manufacturers,	2
Clergyman, Teacher, Teacher and Accountant, Dentist, Insurance Agent, Station Agent, Druggist, Photographer, Carpenter, Ship Carpenter, Lumberman, Granite Cutter, Wood Turner, Sub-Marine Engineer, Keeper of Livery Stable, 1 each.	

RELIGION.

Congregationalist,	
Universalist,	27
Methodist,	20
Free Baptist,	19
Baptist,	13
Roman Catholic,	10
Liberal,	8
Unitarian,	5
Orthodox,	4
Christian,	3
Episcopalian,	3
Spiritualist,	3
Adventist,	2
No religious preferences,	1
No religious preferences reported,	23
Correspondents of newspapers have, from each of their stand-points, mapped out in advance the work of the session. While many of the schemes suggested will be doubtless doomed to defeat, the real business that will attract the attention of the legislature thought and time, will be large in amount and of great importance. While not indulging in any visionary theory, the *Farmer* will content itself with giving the most important business as it shall come before the body, and the manner in which it shall be disposed of. It will be seen by the summary given above that the make-up the legislature of 1887 will compare favorably with any that has preceded it.	7

KENNEBEC COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. ANNUAL MEETING AT READFIELD, JANUARY 3d. The annual meeting of Kennebec County Agricultural Society was held at Readfield, Monday, with a good attendance. After the report of the Secretary, which was adopted, that of the treasurer was called for, and from it we gleaned that the receipts for the year were $1,008.56. Seven hundred and fifty dollars have been expended this year in improvements, so that the society is in better condition to-day than at any time for years. The President, J. H. Yeaton, Esq., Mt. Vernon, who has been a faithful, hard working officer, and one that has given much time and attention to the needs of the Society, declined a reelection, and in his place, J. H. Moore, Esq., of Winthrop, was elected. Mr. Moore has been an efficient trustee, and is well qualified to direct the business of this representative organization. For Vice Presidents we have J. R. Nelson, Winthrop, D. R. Sampson, Kent's Hill, A. G. Underwood, Fayette. H. G. Nickerson and C. H. Stevens, both of Readfield, were unanimously reelected Secretary and Treasurer, a sure sign that the years of faithful service are fully recognized and appreciated.

Although J. Lewis Esq., declined to have his name used as agent, the Society proceeded to reelect him to the position, and he was duly elected for several years. The following are the trustees, all old members save the last: Geo. E. Minot, Belgrade; B. F. Maxim, Wayne; M. T. Jones, Augusta; J. H. Wing, Manchester; Horace E. Carson, Mt. Vernon.

The report of E. G. Bean, Esq., G. M. Twitchell and Elliott Wood, committee on revision of by-laws, created considerable discussion, as they recommended some radical changes. One article only was amended, and then the whole was adopted. We shall publish the report next week.

At the republican legislative caucus, held Wednesday evening, the following State officers were nominated; Oramandal Smith, Secretary of State; E. C. Burleigh, State Treasurer; Samuel J. Gray, State Auditor; General; Orville D. Baker, Attorney General. The following Executive Councillors were nominated:

First District—Eben E. Rand of Greenwood.

Second District—Tobias Lord of Standish.

Third District—Seth M. Carter of Auburn.

Fourth District—Elliott Wood of Winthrop.

Fifth District—Geo. W. Warren of Castine.

Sixth District—Wm. H. Hunt of Liberty.

Seventh District—A. B. Sumner of Lubec.

Hon. Eugene Hale was nominated as candidate for U. S. Senator, and appeared before the convention and made a speech of acceptance.

At the meeting of the democratic State Committee, held in this city, David E. Snow, Thomaston; Clerk, B. F. Staples, Ellsworth; Sergeant-at-Arms, Wm. Henry Clifford of Portland, candidate for United States Senator.

Relics of Other Days.

To Mr. James S. Burdin of this city, are we indebted for copies of two old newspapers, which bring to our memory the events of the war. One is the New York *Herald* of May 31, 1863, giving an account of the Evacuation of Corinth, accompanied by maps which give the exact position of the two armies, embracing the retreat of Beauregard towards Okolona. A paper printed in Corinth just before the rebels left, says it understands that officers and privates in the Confederate army who have distinguished themselves, are to be promoted. "One thing is certain," the paper continues, "that in the future the rule of Napoleon, which made his army the best the world ever saw, is to be the rule of our army. Several of Napoleon's field marshals rose from the ranks. Men of the army of the West! Here is a chance for you! By unexampled bravery, write your names high on the roll of fame. If we succeed in this war—and we cannot doubt our final success—the Southern confederacy will become ten times more military than we have ever been. You who distinguish yourselves will become the future military directors of our country, and your names will be repeated in song as the deliverers of our race from the thraldom of federal cruelty and oppression." Having delivered himself of that oration, the editor scooted for safe quarters, and his printing office was soon knocked into "pi." The Richmond *Inquirer* of May 31, recommends that Richmond's fate be that of Moscow, "as the enemy is strong and defiant." The *Herald* gives a graphic account of the release of fourteen hundred Union soldiers held as prisoners in Salisbury, North Carolina, and their arrival at Newburn. The other publication which Mr. Burdin has furnished us is Frank Leslie's War Maps, some of which shows the route taken by Mr. Burdin's son Calvin as a prisoner of war. These maps are very fine memorials of the great war.

Another old paper has been put into our hands by Mr. Frank White of Augusta, a veteran of the war and member of the fighting Third Maine Regiment. It is the Ulster County (N. Y.) *Gazette* of Jan. 4, 1800, and its columns are dressed in mourning for the death of Gen. Washington that occurred on the fourteenth of the previous month. It contains the proceedings of Congress on the soleum event, and an account of the funeral. The editor closes his article descriptive of the event, as follows: "The sun was now setting. Alas! the son of glory was set forever. No, the name of WASHINGTON, the American President and General, will triumph over death! The unclouded brightness of his Glory will illuminate the future ages." But there is something funny that we find in these solemn columns, and it is the advertisement in rhyme of a country trader, running thus:

> Luther Jones & Co., have this day,
> Been opening goods from York and Bay,
> He has received near every kind,
> That your fancy can find,
> And as I purchase by the cash,
> I am determined to retail
> For ready pay a little less
> Than ever have been had before.

> I with my brethren mean to live;
> But as for others will not give,
> I would not live to ruin your passion,
> For credit here is out of fashion.
> My friends will please to come and call,
> It will pay you well to give a call.
> You may depend on me by my sign,
> A few rods from the house divine.

A relic of barbarism is found in the following advertisement: "For sale—a stout, healthy, active Negro Wench. Any person inclined to purchase, may know the particulars by applying to John Schoonmaker, Jr., at Rochester."

Wages and Cost of Living in 1886.

The American Grocer has collected some interesting facts concerning the wages that have ruled the past year, cost of the substantials of life, etc. The wholesale cost of staple articles of food were, with one or two exceptions, lower than in 1885. Higher prices have ruled for some of the luxuries, such as coffee and canned goods, but as the advance was made mostly during the last quarter of the year, it has not, to any appreciable extent, influenced the cost of living. Consumers never before commanded a greater variety of food, and of such high quality as in 1886. Wages are good and the buyer can get more for them to-day than at any previous time in a generation. Certainly there is no cause for grievance so far as the food supply is concerned. Sugar has declined 1 cent per pound; rice, 1@1¼ cents; tea, 2@3 cents; butter has averaged 4 11-16@2½ cents per pound higher; cheese, 1½ cents higher on medium and lower grades; eggs, 1¾ cents per dozen lower; pork, $1.50 per bbl. lower; lard, ¼ cent per pound lower. Flour has averaged $4.43 per bbl. for straight winter wheat, being the lowest average price on record. Wheat sold at an average of 72@73 cents per bushel above the cost for two preceding years. Canned goods range from 10 to 20 per cent. higher for most sorts.

Labor is well employed, unusually so for winter. The hoards of idle money, so long a tax upon the storage capacity of the banks, has disappeared and is actively employed. About 7000 miles of railway have been built. The transportation facilities of the country are taxed to their full capacity, so much so that all the leading systems are forced continually to add to their rolling stock. Best of all the work of mines, of railways, of manufacturing industries, has been profitable, quite in contrast to the four years, 1882 to 1886, when the majority of corporations were taxed to meet fixed charges. We are entering upon a dividend paying era, and that explains the active condition of business, never so brisk during the closing month of a year as in 1886.

Recent Deaths. Dr. H. N. Small, for many years one of the leading physicians of Portland, died last week of softening of the brain. His age was about fifty years. He was a graduate of Dartmouth Medical School, class of '62, from which he entered the army, serving as surgeon of one of the Maine regiments until the close of the war. He was a leading member of the Maine Medical Association, and for several years the resident physician at the Maine General Hospital.——Captain James Carney, one of Richmond's most respected citizens, died at his home Sunday morning, aged 82 years. He was born in Boston, and was very much interested in all that pertained to the welfare of Richmond.——Caleb Warren of East Denmark, one of the oldest and most esteemed citizens of that region, died on Thursday, after a lingering illness of a year's duration. He was one of the pioneers of Maine Odd Fellowship, and had been a member of the Legislature, and filled many local offices. He was about 80 years of age.——Mr. Rufus S. Owen of Chelsea, Mass., a well-known clothing dealer of Boston, died on Thursday, aged about 69. He was a native of Brunswick, Me., and a son of the late Philip Owen. He had served in the Chelsea Common Council, represented the city in the Legislature, had served on the board of assessors, was a prominent Mason, etc. He leaves a widow and one son.

——The following are the names of the officers elected for the coming year, of Starling Grange in Fayette, No. 186:

Master—Jos. F. Stevens.
Overseer—O. E. Stevens.
Lecturer—J. H. True.
Steward—A. J. Follows.
Chaplain—T. D. Palmer.
Treasurer—F. A. Chase.
Secretary—A. F. Watson.
Assistant Secretary—C. L. Burgess.
Lady Assistant Steward—Mrs. C. L. Burgess.
Pomona—Mrs. J. O. Follows.
Ceres—Mrs. D. Neal.
Flora—Mrs. F. F. Stevens.
Gate Keeper—J. D. Tuck.

Starling Grange has had a prosperous almost twelve years; has built and furnished one of the best halls in the State, at a cost of nearly $2000, and its members have met from week to week. All this time exchanged friendly greeting, and mutually considered the best modes of education in agriculture, and as we consider the advancement made we feel ourselves amply paid for the sacrifices made. We have now three new applicants for membership, on which we take action at our next meeting. Installation of officers at the first meeting in January.

S.

We call attention to the New Year's advertisement of Partridge's old and reliable drug store, under Granite Hall. Our onestemed friend, Mr. Charles K. Partridge, is still at the wheel there, with good assistance. As a skilled and careful apothecary, he needs no encomiums. The stock of reliable drugs and genuine medicines which he keeps, is unsurpassed in extent and variety, fancy articles, matters of toilet and more attractive than ever. Those good medicines known as the U. S. Gold Cough Cure, Ointment, &c., are still manufactured exclusively at this store.

M. G. Palmer has been elected President of the Portland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in place of Hon. Charles McLaughlin, deceased.

Governor Bodwell's Inaugural Address.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In accordance with the duty enjoined upon the Governor by the Constitution, I now submit to you information of the condition of the State, and recommend to your consideration such measures as I judge to be expedient at this time.

My first recommendation is that the State tax be reduced by the sum of $335,945.39, which is 36⅔ per cent. of the total amount now levied. The condition of the State finances, according to the annual report of the Treasurer, will justify this important step. The nominal amount of the bonded debt of the State is $5,157,000, all of which is due and payable in the year 1893.—$3,330,000 in June, and $2,827,000 in October in offset to the total amount of the debt, there is in the treasury a sinking-fund of $2,110,390.57. This fund is composed of our own State Bonds to the amount of $1,161,500; United States Bonds, $834,300; New Hampshire State Bonds, $93,600; and Massachusetts State Bonds, $21,000. The premium on the three last named securities amounts, to-day, according to the statement of the Treasurer, to $247,360.00,—thus making the aggregate value of the sinking-fund $2,357,650.57. The premium will probably be higher rather than lower during the current year. Deducting the sinking-fund at its full and actual value, the aggregate debt of the State which remains to be provided for is $2,799,349.43.

The sinking-fund operations, under the Act of 1868, should be brought to a close, now that the State is called upon to provide for the final liquidation of the bonds in aid of which the fund was originally established. Of the securities in the fund, I recommend that the bonds of our own State be cancelled and destroyed by the Treasurer in the presence of the committee of the two branches of the Legislature and a committee of the Executive Council. I recommend that the avails of the United States, Massachusetts and New Hampshire bonds be devoted directly to the liquidation of the State debt, according to the manner which is indicated below.

To provide for the State debt still remaining I recommend that a Refunding Bill be enacted, giving the Treasurer the right to sell, after due advertisement, to the highest bidder, bonds of the State of Maine, to an amount not exceeding two millions eight hundred thousand dollars, the bonds to run for thirty years at three per cent., interest to be paid semi-annually at the Treasurer's office and in the city of Boston. I also recommend that for the ultimate redemption of these new bonds a sinking-fund be established, amounting to one per cent. annually of the whole amount, said sinking-fund to be invested in State bonds of the New England States, and city bonds of any New England city of twenty thousand inhabitants whose total permissible debt is not in excess of five per cent. of its valuation. I think a sinking-fund should be restricted in the line of investments as to practically defeat a large portion of the profit to be derived from its establishment. That has been, to some extent, the defect of the sinking-fund in 1868, as pointed out by the Treasurer in his annual report. I recommend only a small sinking-fund for the new bonds, originally authorized, without burdening the tax-payers, which will rapidly extinguish the debt.

I recommend further that a provision be inserted in the Refunding Act, authorizing the Treasurer to exchange the new bonds for the old at any time after the passage of the Act, and further that the Treasurer be given the right to purchase, to the extent of the amount remaining in the sinking-fund, all State bonds that may be offered in advance of their maturity, provided that the terms of exchange and purchase shall be obviously advantageous to the State. These authorizations to the Treasurer will probably result in a considerable saving to the treasury. The exchange of bonds and the purchase of bonds from the resources of the sinking-fund should be conducted with the knowledge and the approval, in writing, of the Governor—the old bonds, in all cases, to be cancelled and held as vouchers for the examination of the next Legislature.

The suspension of the interest on the State bonds now held in the sinking-fund, together with the suspension of the $80,000 annual contribution to that fund and the termination of the $50,000 for direct payment of State debt, form the groundwork for the reduction of the tax, as I have recommended. With the successful revision of the State debt and the present sinking-fund of one per cent., as recommended, a further reduction of the State tax may be confidently expected by the next Legislature.

The State tax to be levied this year, after the reduction referred to, will amount to two and three-quarter mills on the dollar of State valuation, or twenty-seven and one-half cents on each one hundred dollars. But it must be noted that one mill of the two and three-quarters is not the ordinary State tax, but is specially levied for the School fund. Its beneficent operation is such that the rich towns of the State are held in part to educate the children of the towns not so well off in worldly goods. This tax is levied according to property, and distributed among the towns according to the number of scholars, so that the rich towns get back a good deal less than they pay, and the towns of less wealth get back a great deal more than they pay. Every dollar of this tax is distributed by the Legislature of 1872 in support of the Government that has been levied without the least fifty years, with the exception of the tax levied respectively by the Legislatures of 1846, 1860 and 1861, for the reduction now recommended relates to the State proper, and amounts to nearly thirty-seven per cent. of the whole amount levied.

These facts are encouraging to the taxpayers of the State and are, in the highest degree, creditable to the care and economy with which the finances have been administered in the State. In 1868 the State debt was $8,100,000, and a dollar, expended for the suppression of the Rebellion. The payment of five million three hundred thousand dollars of this has been made on the principal, leaves only two million eight hundred thousand dollars of the debt and interest to impose a tax for interest of only $84,000 per annum. Even if more were needed to guarantee the high credit of the State, it would be found in the Constitutional provision which prohibits the incurring of any obligation in excess of three hundred thousand dollars, except for the purpose of war. In this will always be found a large protection to our credit and an invaluable safeguard to the tax-payer.

It may be stated as a maxim that there is no expenditure for which the citizen gets so much in return as for the amount he devotes to paying taxes, and yet there is no subject upon which people are more justly sensitive than that the taxes be equal. If all communities, and all the citizens of each community, paid an equal and proper proportion, there would be no complaint among the people. The grievance arises, in the main, from the inequality of taxation, and this inequality arises, in large part, from the errors of valuation—errors in many cases innocently made, no doubt, but still working hardship in many ways.

It should be made the steady aim of the legislative power of the State to equalize the burdens of government. To that end I recommend that an earnest inquiry be made into the mode of our valuation, with a view to its improvement. A board, composed of one commissioner from each county, hastily summoned at the close of each session, with a member naturally endeavoring to have his own county valued at as low a rate as possible, would not seem to be the best method devisable.

The character of our present system, a smaller number of commissioners, say not exceeding three, at work for a longer period, chosen, not as the representatives of the counties in which they may happen to live, but for the whole State, would be less cumbrous, less expensive, and would be less ways more efficient. The errors of valuation in force in other New England States should be carefully examined. Some improved methods in those States could, I have reason to believe, be profitably incorporated in our own system.

One provision in the Valuation Act I specially recommend, viz: That in case of destructive fire or any other sudden and disastrous calamity in any city or town, the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be authorized to suspend the collection of a certain amount of the State tax levied on said city or town, proportioned to the loss incurred,—said suspension to remain in force until the adjournment of the next ensuing legislature. Many of the calamities which have lately befallen the towns of Eastport and Farmington had occurred directly after the adjournment of the legislature, those towns would have been subjected to great inconvenience and distress for the ensuing two years, which could have been relieved by summoning an extra session of the legislature.

In this connection, it may be profitable for the legislature to inquire whether, in the rapid changes in the relative position of towns, by reason of railroads, etc., there is not room for justice and equality of taxation if the valuation should be revised once in five years, instead of once in ten, as is now done. The Constitution of the State requires that a "general valuation shall be taken at least once in ten years"—implying that it might be wise to take the valuation oftener. Such a valuation was ordered by the legislature intermediate between the valuations of 1840 and 1850. It is submitted whether the incurring of any obligation in excess of three hundred thousand dollars, except for the purpose of war. In this will always be found a large protection to our credit and an invaluable safeguard to the tax-payer.

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The reports of the workings of our various public institutions for the past two years will be laid before you. They all show gratifying evidences of fulfilling the objects for which they were established. The Hospital for the Insane shows commendable progress in every provision for the comfort and cure of the inmates, and I think it may be said that in all its appointments it is the equal of any institution of the kind in the country. It has been, in all respects, prudently and efficiently administered. I have only one suggestion to make in regard to it, and that is that the criminal insane,—I mean those who have incurred the heavy penalties of the law and have had their sentences commuted on account of insanity,—should be kept apart from the general class of patients. Whether this should be done by providing an entirely separate ward, or a small building on the grounds, a little removed from the other buildings, it must be for the wisdom of the legislature to determine. I commend the subject to your careful inquiry.

I recently paid a visit to the Reform School for Boys and have witnessed with much gratification the condition of that institution. Its discipline and management do honor to the Superintendent and all his teachers and assistants. I understand that the Trustees will ask for an appropriation for an experiment of the cottage plan, where the boys are treated precisely as though they were in a family, having smaller numbers associated together, and thereby increasing the direct influence of those to whose charge they are committed. I refer the subject to the legislature, feeling sure that the most careful consideration will be given to it, as involving the welfare of a class of our population who may be turned from evil and made useful and respectable citizens. No subject is more worthy of patient investigation and wise provision.

It was my pleasure, also, to pay a visit to the State Prison, the detailed condition of which will be found in the reports of the Warden and Inspectors. The work of the prisoners, principally engaged on carriages, is of a very excellent order. The making, in fact, of very excellent order. The subject of prison labor is a very difficult one to solve, and I commend the subject to the careful consideration of the legislature. It is one which appeals to humanity and philanthropy with peculiar force and earnestness.

The Board of Health is discharging an important function in the State, and I think with great advantage. Every abuse that can lead to disease should be promptly removed, every avenue that may lead to infection should be promptly closed. The Board of Health should be empowered to see that municipal organizations, common schools and licensed inn-keepers, do their duty in these respects, and that everything practicable be done to render Maine, as by nature seems to have designed her, one of the healthiest States on the continent. I beg to suggest that we owe a duty to the large number of citizens of other States who stay among us for the summer season, who have

Items of Maine News.

Fred Hill of Rockport, met with a severe accident last Friday, by having one of his fingers jammed off in a boring machine.

It is expected that W. W. Thomas will be at Caribou, and deliver his lecture on "Sweden and the Swedes" about Jan. 15th.

M. M. Richards & Co., Waldoboro', have manufactured the past year 10,000 pairs of pants

Harry H. Roach, son of Mr. John Roach of Eastport, has passed an examination and received an appointment to the U. S. Signal Service Corps.

The Bodwell Granite Co., at Vinalhaven, have suspended all work in the quarries, and only thirteen stone cutters are at work in the sheds.

A marriage ceremony was one of the interesting events at Thursday evening's meeting of Enterprise Grange at Orrington Centre. The contracting parties were Mr. Daniel S. Hodges, and Miss Nellie M. Pond.

Athens, Thursday, voted 5 per cent. of its valuation in aid of the proposed road from Burnham to Moose River. The citizens were enthusiastic, only eleven votes being recorded against it.

A floral design in the shape of a composing-stick, was appropriately laid on the bier of the late Editor Melvin W. Higgins, of the Portland *Argus*, by the Portland Typographical Union.

George H. Hunt of Belfast, the brakeman who met with a serious accident on the railroad at Thorndike, some two weeks ago, is getting along very well, and the injured leg will be saved.

The Suffolk Oil and Guano Company located at East Boothbay, Me., is under attachment on past due paper; and Herman Smith, wholesale dealer in oil, 19 Fulton street, who is a partner in the company is also under attachment in Boston.

The following Maine Postmasters were appointed Thursday: Mrs. Amanda T. Norwood, Seal Cove, Hancock Co., Vice Amanda T. Sawyer name changed by marriage; Mrs. A. M. Bowie, South Danville, Androscoggin Co., Vice Emerson Bowie resigned.

Special Policeman James S. Higgins of Bath, charged with stealing $135 worth of brass and copper junk from the Bath Iron Works, where he was employed, was held, Thursday forenoon, in $800 for appearance at the April term of the Supreme Judicial Court.

John Cronan, aged 33 years, formerly a printer employed at the Tucker Printing House, Portland, but lately a freight employé of the Portland and Ogdensburg, dropped dead at the freight house on Commercial street, Saturday afternoon, of heart disease.

The North Jay Granite Co. have purchased a quarry near North Conway, N. H., and have moved their engine, cable, stone cars and several derricks to that place, where they intend to work a crew of men next season, in connection with their wor at North Jay.

The following patents have been issued to Maine inventors: William L. Fitch, Portland, apparatus for use in teaching music. Lewis F. Shepard, Washington, Indiasignor to G. Moore, Berwick, machine for drawing in warp threads. Thomas A. Crabtree, East Surry, assignor of one-half to B. Morrill, Blue Hill, umbrella.

In the Supreme Judicial Court at Bath, Friday, William Jones was found guilty of $250 from Mrs. Otis Thompson of Topsham, was sentenced for three years in the State prison. Fred B. Dolley for breaking and entering the boot and shoe store of Nathaniel Baker of Slidell, was given two years in the State prison.

Lime Rock Hill, on the Brunswick road, one mile from Bath, was the scene of a highway robbery Saturday night. Charles Purrington of West Bath, while returning home from Bath, was knocked down and robbed by four men. The police arrested Melville Crooker and James Bolton, as two of the robbers.

The County Commissioners of Androscoggin county have decided to make a bridge at Livermore Falls free. Damages awarded the owners are $5000. The town of East Livermore and Livermore pay $750 each, and the county $3500. The property and business prospects of these towns are greatly enhanced by this action.

The following list of deputy sheriffs for 1887 have been appointed by Sheriff Smith of Androscoggin county: Nelson Howard, Lewiston; W. H. Jordan, Lisbon; C. H. Thurston, Poland; Jas. G. Jordan, Sabatis; William Maine, Lisbon Falls; Ira T. Monroe, N. Livermore; P. R. Cobb, Mechanic Falls; Wallace Carey, Turner; H. H. Pettingill, Leeds.

A sad accident occurred at Flint's camp, last week. Melvin Perham of Sebec, was driving a sled, heavily loaded, down the hill, when the bridle chain broke, causing the logs to roll from the sled upon the man's legs and breaking one of them in a shocking manner. He lay until the next team came up when he was extricated and taken to the camp whence he was brought home.

In the suit of the Barron estate against the Dexter Savings Bank to recover $2,150 for money taken-by the bank from Mr. Barron's insurance money, and also against him, the bank at the Oct. term filed an offer to be defaulted for $845, which was to be accepted or rejected before Dec. 25. The estate has rejected the offer and the case is to be tried at the January term.

The new town house in New Gloucester, was dedicated Thursday evening. Addresses were made by C. P. Haskell, Esq., Prof. W. H. Jordan, Rev. Arthur Shirley and Mr. A. H. Nevins. There was a large attendance. The building is a fine one of two stories, with the town hall on the first floor and another commodious hall for lectures and other purposes occupying the second story. The cost was about $6,000.

Caribou were never seen in such large numbers around Mooshead Lake as this season. A few days ago a man travelling on the lake, near the outlet, saw ten in the shelter of a point there. He went quickly to the outlet for a rifle, but they were gone when he got back. The next day the Capen saw four near his house on Deer Island, and shot two of them, all he is allowed by law. Other parties have also killed large numbers of them.

Schooner Ella of Damariscotta, Me., Captain Hall, from Portland, Me., for New York, with a cargo of paving stones, and the Acara of Jonesport, Me., Captain Doyle from St. John for New York, with a cargo of apples were in collision near Polook Rip lightship, on the night of Dec. 29. The Ella lost her jibboom and received other slight damage. The Acara had her mainsail badly torn, quarter rail on the starboard side broken, and one davit damaged. Both vessels arrived at Vineyard Haven, Mass., Wednesday.

The preliminary hearing before the Police Court in Belfast, of Mrs. Martha M. Crockett, charged with the murder of her husband, Daniel Crockett, was completed last week. The jurors thought the evidence sufficient to hold the respondent and he ordered her committed to jail to await the action of the Grand Jury at the January term of Court. When Mrs. Crockett heard the decision of the Judge she broke down and wept, her sobbing being heard all over the room. She was surrounded by her daughters and friends who comforted her. Mrs. Crockett was then taken in charge by an officer and carried to jail.

As Stephen Coffin and wife of Thorndike, were returning from Belfast, Saturday, and had passed over the J. C. Littlefield crossing at Waldo, their horse took fright at the approaching down train, and after unstarting them both into the ditch, unshipping the hind sled and running with the forward sled toward the crossing where he made an attempt to jump in front of engine of the train, but fortunately the sled caught on a post by the crossing, throwing the horse down the embankment, thus preventing a most serious accident, no one being injured.

At Winterport, Thursday, William M. Lane, one of the best known and highly respected young men of the town, started for a hunting trip in the forenoon. At nearly four o'clock two young men were startled in the woods about two miles from the village, and started in that direction. After some little difficulty they found Lane holding on to his left leg, from which the blood was steadily flowing. It seems that several hours before he had slipped and fell down, discharging his gun. The contents, a heavy load of shot, entered the inside of his left leg near the body, inflicting a terrible wound. He died in a short time after reaching home.

Following is a complete list of the deputies appointed by Sheriff-elect Samuel C. Hamilton of York county: Bodwell J. Grant, Acton; Robert M. Stevens, Alfred; Luke H. Roberts, Alfred; Nathaniel N. Hurd, Berwick; John F. Goldthwaite, Biddeford; Horatio N. Bradbury, Jr., Buxton; James C. Ayer, Cornish; Wm. E. Towne, Kennebunk; Dana S. Beacham, Limerick; Frank A. Knight, No. Berwick; Wm. A. Allen, Sanford; Frank N. Butler, Springvale; Freeman C. Ham, South Berwick; Nehemiah Mason, Waterboro; Albert S. Stackpole, West Lebanon; John C. Stewart, York; Timothy Elliott, Biddeford. Jailer—Robert M. Stevens, Alfred.

George Gay, of Plantation No. 7, formerly a minister in Massachusetts, very aged and mildly insane, on Wednesday afternoon left the house where he stops, and when out of sight took to the woods. Not returning at dark his friends became alarmed and sought assistance from the nearest neighbors. A party of three, consisting of State Detective Robert A. Davis of Portland, who has been on a hunting trip, Mr. Wilmot Smith, and Lorenzo Tracy, volunteered to go in search of the unfortunate man. At this time the mercury stood at zero and it was growing colder. The party, after searching some time, found his trail and with lanterns started to follow it. Near midnight they found the old man exhausted and about to lie down for a sleep which would have been his last. After much labor he was returned to his home with no serious injury. The rescuing party were completely exhausted, but very glad to have saved the old man's life.

Items of General News.

Thirty-seven persons were killed by an explosion in Mons coal pit, Brussels.

By the fall of a building at Nanticoke, Pa., on Thursday, five men were terribly injured, two probably fatally.

President Cleveland is steadily gaining in health. He and Mrs. Cleveland had a brilliant New Year's reception.

A collision of trains occurred on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad near Tiffin, Ohio, Tuesday, by which 17 persons were killed.

An express train jumped the track near Springfield, Mass., Tuesday. One person was killed and quite a number injured.

Judge Gresham of Indiana, is said to have determined to remain on the Bench, and not to allow his name to be used as a candidate for the Presidency.

The Dolores Land and Cattle Company of Texas, which was chartered last year with a stated capital of $2,000,000, has failed.

The American Bridge Builders' Association was organized at New York on Wednesday, representing a combined capital of $70,000,000.

A disastrous fire occurred in London Saturday. The property of 25 firms was damaged. The loss is enormous, but is not yet exactly known.

At Oconomowock, Wis., Tuesday, a passenger train collided with a sleigh containing a number of laborers, killing three men and injuring two others.

English steamer Cranbrook, Capt. Smith, is believed to have gone to the bottom with 25 persons on board, being 35 days out. She was loaded with iron and valued at $100,000.

The republican senatorial caucus of Massachusetts have nominated Halsey J. Boardman for President of the Senate, and renominated the balance of last year's officers.

In eleven months ending Nov. 30, 1886, 366,567 immigrants landed in this country, an increase of more than 60,000 over 1885. Of this number about 300,000 arrived in New York.

The State of Kansas leads in the number of miles of railroads that have been built the past year. In the United States 8010 miles of new main line railway track have been built; of this Kansas has built 1520 miles.

The fire in the reserved enclosure at the People's Park, Madras, on Friday, lasted only fifteen minutes. It is now ascertained that 200 persons lost their lives, being either burned to death or suffocated, while the number injured is placed at the same figure.

Judge M. A. Haywood while examining a witness Friday, in the Sheriff McKeuney murder case at Cortualla, Texas, suddenly fell over and died from the effects of an overdose of morphine. Whether it was taken with suicidal intent is not yet decided.

A memorial to Congress was forwarded Saturday to the Alabama senators at Washington, for the colored peoples world's fair, to be held at Birmingham in the autumn of 1887. The memorial is signed by all classes of the white people in Washington, including those of every important business interest of the community.

The funeral of Gen. Logan took place in the Senate chamber at Washington, on Friday, and was of a very impressive character. The oration was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Newman; the procession was very imposing. The remains were placed in a vault at Rock Creek Cemetery, where it will await final interment.

A swindler has been going the rounds among the farmers of New York State, pretending to be in quest of a summer home, claiming also that he was a celebrated occulist. He sold any quantity of eye glasses to any credulous farmer for $40, which could be had anywhere of traders for ten or fifteen cents.

About 140,000,000 pounds of wool are reported to have changed hands in the Boston market the past week. The largest amount on record, save the phenomenal total of 170,000,000 pounds the year before. Shipments of boots and shoes to points outside of New England have reached 2,883,-000 cases against 2,487,000 in 1885.

Fred Wittrock, arrested in Chicago and taken to Leavenworth, Kan., confesses to complicity in the great express robbery, and restored $20,000 with the understanding that he is not to be punished. Mrs. Haight has also been arrested as an accomplice. The money it is reported was buried in five States.

One of the boldest robberies ever perpetrated in Cincinnati, occurred on a prominent corner shortly after midnight Thursday night. Two men walked into the back room of the confectionery store of O. Zepin on Fountain square, and when the proprietor came back presented pistols at his head and robbed him of $550. They then bound and gagged him and made their escape.

It has been decided to invest the Logan fund in United States four per cent. bonds, and Captain George E. Lemon will purchase at once as the first instalment, $20,000 worth of such bonds, and have them registered in Mrs. Logan's name. A subscription of $1000 has been received from George W. Murray at Indianola, who was a telegraph operator under Gen. Logan.

The statistics of failures for the entire year of 1886, show a slight falling off as compared with 1885. The number of business failures in the United States is 9,834, as compared with 10,637 for the year 1885, a decrease of 803 failures. The total liabilities of the failures of 1886 are $114,000,000, as compared with $124,000,00 in 1885, a decrease of $10,000,000. The number of traders reported in business by the mercantile agency in 1886 in the United States is 969,841. Of these, one trader in every 98 failed. In 1885 there were 919,990 traders, and of these in that year one trader in every 86 failed. The average liabilities per failure in 1886 is $11,651 as against an average in 1885 of $11,678. Trade during the past year has been very large and generally remunerative.

The past year has been an unprofitable as well as a disastrous one to the Gloucester (Mass.) fishermen, and scarcely does a year pass but what the fishing industry there is attended by great loss of life. But although brighter prospects are looked for in the future. The loss the past year has exceeded the average. The figures compile a total of 26 vessels of a tonnage of 1217.25, valued at $52,300 and insured for $119,221, while the number of lives lost was 137. The Christmas and New Year gales have proven very calamitous, the loss from December 1st to March compriesd 12 vessels, three of them with a crew of 42 men, while 24 others lost their mainsail badly torn, quarter rail on the starboard side broken, and one davit damaged. Both vessels arrived at Vineyard Haven, Mass., Wednesday.

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Maine Agricultural News.

—The Annual Meeting of the Lincoln Agricultural Society will be held in Masonic Hall, Damariscotta, on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1887, at 10.30 o'clock A. M.

—The following are the officers elect of Lamoine Grange for 1887:

Master—Helen A. Cousins.
Overseer—Milton J. Wilbur.
Lecturer—Daniel Y. McFarland.
Steward—Heman H. Cousins.
Assistant Steward—George Young.
Chaplain—Wm. H. Rice.
Treasurer—Newell B. Coolidge.
Secretary—Martha J. Coolidge.
Gate Keeper—Meltiah Salsbury.
Ceres—Hannah McFarland.
Pomona—Julia Coolidge.
Flora—Caro Smith.
Lady Assistant Steward—Myra Young.

—Wm. C. Hayes of Foxcroft, thrashed seventy days last fall, thrashing 10,262 bushels, fifty-eight lots averaging 177 bushels per lot; the largest lot being 492 bushels, smallest 20 bushels. Those raising 400 bushels or more were V. A. Gray, Freeland Thompson, Samuel Campbell, A. W. Gilman and L. H. Dunham. The best lot of wheat thrashed was James Philbrick's, 900 bundles, single blind, 43 bushels. The best acre of barley, L. B. Dunham, 64 bushels. Charles Cass raised 86 bushels mixed grain on 1¼ acres. Albert Hussey raised 215 bushels of oats, averaging 64 bushels to the acre.

—At the annual election of Sandy Stream Grange, Unity, the following officers were elected:

Master—F. B. Lane.
Overseer—Mrs. P. A. Starkey.
Lecturer—Mrs. Henry Bacon.
Steward—Herbert Stevens.
Assistant Steward—Edwin Pond.
Chaplain—George Varney.
Treasurer—F. A. Bartlett.
Secretary—Mrs. Frank Mussey.
Gate Keeper—Henry Bacon.
Ceres—Mrs. F. B. Lane.
Pomona—Lydia Easter.
Flora—Mrs. Levi Whitten.
Lady Assistant Steward—Mrs. Edwin Rand.
Organist—Lynne Knight.

The order is in a flourishing condition. At their last meeting they presented Mrs. Frank Mussey (who has served them two years as Secretary) with an elegant hanging lamp.

—SOMERSET FARMERS' INSTITUTE. The Farmers' Institute for Somerset county will be held at Skowhegan, Friday, Jan. 14, 1887, with the following programme: Forenoon, opening exercises, followed by a discussion of the subject, "More Crops from the Farm." Afternoon, "Methods in Corn Culture." Discussion by several members of the board and others present. Evening, "Western Competition," by J. M. Deering, member from York county. Members present, G. F. Moore, S. L. Holbrook, J. M. Deering, W. W. Harris, R. W. Ellis.

—At the annual meeting of the West Penobscot Agricultural Society held at Exeter, January 1st, the following officers were elected:

President—S. W. L. Chase, Exeter.
Vice Presidents—John T. Brown, Exeter; E. A. Chandler, Exeter; E. S. Hunting, Corinth.
Secretary and Treasurer—T. P. Bachelder, Kenduskeag.
Trustees—Jacob E. Fernald, Exeter; William Bean, Corinth; Frank C. Barker, Exeter.

—Hampden Grange No. 270, Hampden, have elected the following officers for the coming year:

Master—George E. Keyes.
Overseer—E. R. Packard.
Lecturer—E. E. Frost.
Steward—Henry Cornish.
Assistant Steward—J. L. Miller.
Chaplain—G. N. Holland.
Treasurer—F. P. Reed.
Secretary—Mabel E. Holland.
Gate Keeper—Frank Littlefield.
Ceres—Mrs. R. E. Knox.
Pomona—Mrs. E. R. Packard.
Flora—Mrs. E. E. Frost.
Lady Assistant Steward—Emma Littlefield.
Chorister—J. N. Curtis.
Organist—Mrs. J. N. Curtis.
Librarian—C. F. Lennan.

This Grange is steadily on the increase. It now numbers 72 members. Since the first of November we have initiated 10 new members, and received by demit Bro. and Sister D. M. Hall, late members of Queen City Grange. This Grange has recently purchased an organ, and it is to be hoped that before long we may have a new hall, as the one we now rent will soon be too small for comfort and convenience.

C. E. LIBBY.

[Mr. I. C. Libby, our accomplished reporter, is a member of the present legislature, and during his stay in Augusta the reports will be attended to by his son Mr. C. E. Libby, who is fully equal to the duty. —ED.]

Brighton Cattle Market.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, Jan. 4.

Amount of live stock at market—Cattle 899, Sheep and lambs 5200, Swine 12,780, Horses 160, Number of Western Cattle 354, Northern Cattle. 45.

Prices of Beef Cattle per 100 lbs. live weight—Extra quality $5 25 @ 5 75; first quality $4 75 @ 5 12½ second quality $4 25@4 62½; third quality $3 62½@4 12½; poorest grades of coarse Oxen, Bulls, &c., $3 00@3 50.

Brighton Hides 7c. per lb.
Brighton Tallow 3c. per lb.
Country Hides, heavy 7c. per lb.
Calf Skins 9@9½c. per lb.
Lamb Skins 85@$1.40 each.
Dairy Skins 25@50c. each.

SALES OF CATTLE.

By Number.	lbs live wt.	Price per 100 lbs.	Live Average wt.
A. N. Monroe	15	4 62½	1357
do	16	5 40 "	1621
do	15	5 35 "	1495
do	23	5 20 "	1325
do	20	5 00 "	1171
do	15	4 90 "	1303
Farrell&McFlynn	10	5 00 "	1225
do	6	5 12½ "	1250
do	6	5 37½ "	1290
do	6	5 37½ "	1400

Western Cattle have been costing higher at Chicago the past week, and dealers were asking fully ½c. per lb. for the same grade of Beeves that they were selling one week ago. The reaction in the position of the best Western Cattle were intended for the export trade. Those suitable for butchers were selling at prices ranging from $4 25@5 50 per 100 lbs. live weight. The demands for butchers' Cattle were inactive, and the supply brought in for the week, although light, has been full as large as the demands required.

Sheep and Lambs—Those from the West were all owned by butchers, and were taken direct from the cars to the slaughter houses for slaughter, costing from 4¼@7c. per lb. live weight.

Swine—The supply from the West has been higher than that of the two weeks previous, costing from 4¼@4¾c per lb. live weight landed at the slaughter houses, although the large portion

Poetry.

For the Maine Farmer.

A Plea for the Boy.

BY IKE.

Viddie, you elder widow,
Darling of day and dream;
Memory calls us often
Back to the kindly beam
Seen in your eyes so roguish,
Yet loving and tender, too,
When resting so sweetly upon him,
Sitting beside of you.

Swiftly the flying seasons,
Gather in years behind;
Very soon, burdens of manhood
Heavy with cares he'll find;
Pray for him, Viddie darling,
That he may be brave and true,
(So's to be fitted, darling,
For sitting beside of you.)

Fun is not all of his loving,
Viddie, as you're aware;
Underneath all of his rattling jokes,
Warm is his heart's love there;
Pure as the crystal fountain, clear,
Fresh as the morning dew;
Glowing in crimson plea ure,
When sitting beside of you!

Swifter the time is flying,
Darling, with each new year,
Bearing him on to manhood's prime.
Your golden years draw near,
And light from the gate of heaven falls
Shining 'ere you pass through,
Crowning with softened halo, those
Sitting beside of you.

But, Viddie, if you should reach heaven first,
While he remained below,
A thought of your love would cheer his heart,
Thro' weary his step and slow.
And if, in the mercy of God, he passed
The golden portal too,
By far less ravishing joy would be
Sitting beside of you!

The Old and the New.

The old year and the new! with faltering feet
I stand between the two, waiting to greet
The fair new year, whose broad unwritten page
Stretches beyond my sight, the wisest sage
May tell me naught; no line the future shows—
Which more of shade or light—God only knows.

The happy bells ring cheerily and sweet;
Gifts are exchanged to-day for it is meet
That hearts make glad and loving words of cheer
And smiles of welcome greet the glad new year.

Half fearful I turn to gaze once more
On bygone days; each page is written o'er
With lines crossed and recrossed. Ah! very dear
To me the record of the sweet dead year,
Its mingled joy and pain, along the way
Are strewn crushed buds of hope all ashen gray—
In the dim corridors I seem to see
Faces that no new year will bring to me.

Then back to Him I give my precious years—
Here bright with golden gleams—there stained with tears—
Knowing that where I've erred He will forgive—
Praying that he will teach me how to live
Nearer to Him and Truth in this new year
In which I enter half with hope, half fear.

Our Story Teller.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Boys Who Took the Prize.

We stand amid the scenery of a seaside town. The shores look as though some old giant of Mythology had broken the crust of the earth in such huge jagged edges, and flung the pieces from his finger tips so carelessly over the waves, that Neptune would lose his way in the sea. The landscape seems to be all rocks and marble, the pictures are flecked with flowers, the boys are hardy and brave on sea and land. Their ears are keen to

"The dashing of the boatman's oar,
Or the rippling heard along the shore."

Their eyes are sharp for a look through the "spy-glass" at every approaching vessel, and they know well the story of many a dangerous exploit.

In this neighborhood lived three families bearing severally these names, Simpson, Johnson, and Midas. Some thought that Midas ought to be called Demas, for he loved "this present world." He would wake up nights craving for gold, and intimate that he was making plans to leave for some of the mining regions of the Pacific. Thoughtful people saw at once that he was the man that ought to leave his home, for he had a large family of boys that had just come to the age when they were put upon their metal, and Mrs. Midas was a frail woman, and was not fitted by nature for a governess. Friends resolved to quiet the restiveness of this unhappy father, but man is a two-story being, and the lower story of our respectable friend was in a flame. Avarice was up to ninety degrees in the shade, and ready to go off like a tinder box. The heat had gone into the upper story, and was turning God-like reason into a crispy and blasted thing. All who knew Midas agreed that it would be useless to make a square fight with him, but Mr. Simpson said to him:

"You are doing well, you are rooted here, and it would be a hard pull at the roots to pull up now."

And the good old parson, who had kept many families from the breakers, tenderly, but earnestly portrayed to him the risks of mining, and the greater hazard of his own home. He assured him that if he could stride over the mountains like a Polyphemus, and could open veins of gold and silver with his index finger at every step, that it would never pay for any loss of character on the part of the boys.

But our adventurer, like king Midas, could never be satisfied until everything that he touched was turned into gold. Against all advice he went.

The oldest son was as hard-fisted as his father. The images of dimes shone in his eyes, and the story of his life is told by the epitaph upon a tombstone,

"Born a man, and died a grocer."

His manliness was sunk out of sight in business. The story of the younger sons is told by a few hard and sorrowful facts. The father found gold, found it plentifully, but it took all his income to get his fast boys out of trouble.

Mr. Johnson held very different views of life. He thought it much better for a man to possess his wealth than to have his wealth possess him. He was a thoughtful man, a careful observer, and a natural educator. He found a curiosity upon the shore, and lured the young people, where they discovered it, and they were carried away with unbounded enthusiasm. As a result of his watchcare over children, he proved the following principles: There is a joy of discovery in the realm of truth as in the natural world. It is hard to build up an unexercised soul, for every squirrel must crack his own nuts. There is a pleasing exhilaration by the action of the mind, as electricity is produced by the motion of a friction battery. The child's mind may be injured by overwork, as young trees are damaged by bearing too much fruit. Boys may be taught to balance their judgments as babes balance on their feet. So in haying time Mr. Johnson would ask his boys, "Is this grass cured?" And they respond, "It is crisp and moves readily under the rake. It needs no more sunshine." In the great school of the world this wise father had learned the meaning of the two short Latin words which make the word educate is derived, namely, *E* and *ducere*, which signifies to lead forth, and he was so delightfully leading forth his boys, that their were rapidly becoming self-reliant young men. Suddenly the father died, and left one rich legacy, the legacy of a noble example, which, like the radiance of a golden sunset, shines upon the people still.

The oldest son Frank had a great and noble nature, worthy of his parents, and when the father died "he was at once a father and a son." He was prudence in toil, fortitude in suffering, and to use his own eager. You have heard much of the valor of our soldiers, but he was

"Brave in calm endurance,
As in tilt of spear."

He was known as the "guardian angel" of the smaller children. Coasters that carried kiln wood for roasting lime-rock, a process usually known as "burning lime," came along the shores for freights of soft wood, and one day a younger brother having slipped from a plank that connected a schooner with the land shore, Frank plunged in and rescued the little fellow almost as soon as he began to struggle in the waves. I can now see the image of this heroic young man as he is coming out of the water bearing a child, and his hair just caught on a sand bar by the incoming tide.

This is an age when many sigh for a soft chance, the girls are lily white and lavender tinted, and it takes one boy to look after them, and another to swing them, and then they almost swoon in the shade. Some boys are as tender as the girls, but Frank never thought that the delicacy of idleness is the most desirable thing in the world. When some one expressed pity he replied, "I have some hard climbing, but the air is stimulating and the outlook is grand. I see two companies of people climbing up and the other rolling down, and those who roll down get the most bumps." Thus Frank in early life had learned what millions at fifty have never apprehended, namely, the nobler the deed the higher the joy. Our hero is walking along the way like a very common, humble youth, but as a Christian motive flashes before him, or a grand deed is called for, the boy of little care is into enthusiasm and he is almost transfigured before you. He finds no time for playing among flowers and flying kites, but counts his burden a blessing in climbing and working to secure the advantages of the seminary, but sickness in the family requires all he can earn, and storm after storm whirls about his head, till he repeats the words of a triumphant sufferer:

"Think not to make thy way to God
By any path less rough and steep
Than that thy Saviour trod."

Frank resolved to keep as near as possible to the young men in the seminary, so with the books he bought, and those he borrowed from the Simpson library, he pursued a course of higher English, proving conclusively that a mature mind can master the substance of the books studied by the scholars, if there is a fixed purpose to do it. We leave our brave student for a little time, now he is moving out into wider and brighter, brighter and wider circles of thought as the years pass away.

The Simpson family occupied the finest residence in town, and their home was as near a model as could well be found. The family consisted of Mr. Simpson and wife, two daughters, and the son, Arthur. We wish to look in upon the scene of a very happy winter, when Philip Maxwell was teaching a school, that would well answer the description of President Garfield, when he said, "A rough bench with a student at one end and Mark Hopkins at the other end would make a good college." Mr. Simpson knew how to make use of young Maxwell's gifts, and invited him and the young people to meet at his house for intellectual and social improvement. Everything went delightfully except now and then a jealous criticism. Talkative Miss Kate said to the teacher one day, "Some of the girls think that you enjoy the Simpson family pretty well."

He responded, "I hope that I esteem all good people, and Mr. Simpson has a noble nature that prompts him to climb up without pulling any one down. He never builds a wall between him and those around him, and then stands like a Romulus to smile over Remus that leaps over the wall; and Mrs. Simpson has all the qualities of a lady, excepting a few traits of the modern lady. She does not employ an extra servant to carry a poodle dog, and if any one needs help she does not sail along with her head in the clouds, neither does she look down upon girls like you with a condescending smile, and no one ever went away from that house saying that 'It is a pity that happy dispositions could not be bottled up and kept for sale so that they could be supplied.'"

Kate confessed, "I think the old people are all right, but I heard some fellows in the Plunket neighborhood say, 'Frank Simpson knows one think, he knows how to walk on tapestry carpets.'"

"Very true! he knows how to walk on tapestry carpets or ploughed ground, and he knows how to turn the carpet of the earth into the carpet of the parlor."

Kate was ready to suspend judgment, for they were invited to Mr. Simpson's that night.

The young people of the town are in the Simpson mansion, and a lull in the festivities brings forward the mathematical boys who test their wits solving problems concerning the profits of an education, and they conclude that the muscle of man, without thought to guide it, is as cheap in the market as a mule team. But the discerning Maxwell sees that the young lads have only a half truth liable to be abused, and his face lights up as he gives them more enlarged views.

"Beware," said he, of being satisfied with a trade and barter view of scholarship. Thousands are ready to pay homage to education, ready to deck her with stars and crown her with a diadem, so long as she will be the servant of avarice and bow down to the world god." The crowd eagerly gathered around as he proceeds:

"Above all gain place the outfit of the soul, and the unbounded delight that arises from a pure mind and a vivid imagination. The well furnished mind has wealth beyond the splendors of riches, and he can turn to loneseome that has the company of good thoughts. Not only has he fountains of joy within, but the outward world regales him and administers joy to the senses, while he 'Finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything.'"

After a moment's pause, jolly Tim Murphy broke in, "I'd like to that first rate, but I'a thinking whether I could get it all in one term."

The tutor suited the word to the act, as he replied, "You are a genuine Yankee. Have you heard of the story of the Yankee and Dutchman at the explosion?"

"No, but let us hear it now."

"Here it is: Anxious friends asked a Dutchman if he had seen the Yankee that was near him before the boiler exploded, and the Dutchman answered, 'When I vash going up, he vash coming down.' There is some danger, Tim, that you may get your schooling on the explosion principle, and find yourself coming down when you ought to be going up. They say that you are a judge of a good dinner, but you never ask if you can eat all the mince pies in the world in one day, and wish them laid for a lifetime. If a student abandons investigation when he graduates, his diploma becomes his epitaph to tell when he died—died and was buried with honors, for too often die a mental death long before the hearse comes for them."

At this point, Fred Jones, the brilliant young declaimer, appeared to the front with his observation:

"I believe what you say, but some of our popular public men, men called smart, a few years ago knew no more than the rest of us."

"I will tell you what they have learned since," said Maxwell. "They have learned how to manage a caucus, and practice crafty arts, and sport with other men's money. Flash and dash, and 'tinsel show' are above par in this age, but we damage society by encouraging superficial things. A neat of demagogues is often like the store room of an actor into which the fox stole. When Reynard stumbled upon a beautiful mask, and it seemed light as he turned it up with his paw, he exclaimed, 'Fine looking head, indeed, what a pity it has no brains!' We pay tribute to the gaudy trappings of life, and throw our hats in the air listening to the speeches of noisy ranters, but we 'pay too dear for the whistle' when our country suffers for it. When we patronize all sorts of quackery, we teach young people that real merit is not worth the sacrifice required to obtain it. When we contemplate public life, we are not to think only of what our country can do for us, for then a man fills a post office his decisions affect every school district, and fishing vessel, and factory, and family, and voter and every school boy. There is not a child in all the land whose destiny is not in degree in the hands of some of a public servant, and so many tease the congressman for help that if he has a weak spot somebody will find it. When Achilles was born, to make him proof against our weapons, he was dipped in the Styx, and the dark liquid covered him except one place where the hand of Thetis held him by the heel, and in that little spot 'There will not wanting a Paris to inflx the dart.'

Mrs. Simpson afterward meeting Mr. Maxwell said, "I was much pleased with the thoughts you gave the scholars the other evening, but your words are half done. We have boys in the district that are tempted to fling away the opportunities of a lifetime."

Another meeting was then arranged, and the skillful teacher decided to give no formal lecture, but simply to converse. He would dissolve a big lump of sugar in a cup of drink, so if no one saw the lump, the sugar would be there. Now our masterly tutor appeared in the company just as the young sailors were reporting that Jack Brown's sloop had been high and dry on a beach more than forty times.

Maxwell startled them a little by saying, "there are more boys than sloops that are high and dry on a beach."

"How is that?" cry ail the voices.

"Many boys start in business and some one offers them a dime more for a day's work, and they change their employment, then comes another offer, and another change. Look at the result. The skill of a man with a trade or profession, is his capital, and if he takes the right choice of his pursuit in life, his skill, like money at interest, is increasing every year, and his gifts are in demand because he excels. But by changing he throws away the value of his experience in a beginner again. He is like the sloop, high and dry on the beach, that has to be launched for another trip. Besides this folly, did you ever think how unsatisfactory to reflect upon a life broken into fragments? In some of the almanacs is a picture of a strange looking creature, half man and half horse, called a centaur. Such a monstrosity does well for an advertisement for a quack medicine, but you wish to be men from top to toe, and a life should have unity from beginning to end, then will it be a thing of 'beauty and a joy forever.'

"Any youth who steps aside from the right path for a momentary pleasure, is soon shut up in the prison house of to-day. He has no enlarged views of the future that will make him a great man. If you will name the student that thinks most and best about what is beyond the next sunrise, I will tell you of one that will make his mark in the world, even though he may be bashful, and have awkward and ungainly motions. See a manly form on the prow of yonder vessel that is just coming out of the fierce, wild and tempestuous storm of a troublesome night, and how like a strange object floating on the gray mist of the morning. Come near to that man, hear his heart beat, see the fire flash in his eye, as he listens for the sighing of the bird's wing, and detects some seaweed and blade of carved wood tossed upon the crest of the wave. Ask the stupid and mutinous sailors, what meaneth this, and they reply, 'Wood and weed and bird song, nothing more;' ask the man on the prow, and he declares, 'The wind is from the West, and these objects are from an unknown land just ahead.' It was a look into the future which made that man the world's great Columbus."

During the winter, Mr. Maxwell touched every side of character, inspiring self sacrifice, honesty every day heroism, and teaching the children how by little acts of faithfulness they could please God as well could the tallest angels.

Mrs. Simpson carried forward the work in another form which her favorite instructor had begun. This intelligent lady, in her travels, had collected pictures and arranged them in sets, representing seaside resorts, mountain scenery, parks and gardens, and old ruins. She continued visiting the young people, and giving them information concerning the noted places represented, so that the whole neighborhood was alive with social and mental activity.

What was the result of this elevated school and home life? Did the boys become presidents of the United States? Not one of them, though old Mr. Jackson, the Supervisor, told them each term, that they might be Presidents if they would be good boys and try for it. When the children learned that the superintendent had said the same thing in the Plunket school and in the Tompkins school, and had promised the office to so many that it would not go round to a life time, they began to lose respect for the kind-hearted old gentleman, and their ambition waned, but when Mr. Maxwell taught them the true idea, that each one could attain excellence, and secure that which was best for him, they rallied, and most of them did achieve something noble in life. Only a few like the Midas boys were dwarfed with selfishness, or whirled into the vortex of dissipation. But Arthur Simpson and Frank Johnson were the ripe fruit of this harvesting. Arthur had a wide and varied culture that fitted them for any position in society, but Frank was trained in a severer school that gave him a broad humanity. On every great emergency he is called to the front, and his thoughts, like the arrows of Acestes flame as they fly, and his strong emotions move the people like a mighty tide. By another pathway Frank has climbed to the sun-lit peak of life, and stands by the side of Arthur. Both have won *the highest prize, the reward offered to every manly character.*

While to Arthur and Frank you send up congratulations with shouts, you should not forget the lessons of their lives. Halls of learning as good as the sun shines upon, invite you to their joys, and all the boys who can, should follow Arthur in the pathway of his many triumphs. But if sickness, or death, or duty to friends forbids this privilege, they should follow Frank as he goes through the great school of the world with his mind wide awake, and his eyes wide open. Both these boys won prizes greater than the fortunes of the Rothchilds, fortunes of character, treasures of mind and heart, and the respect of all who know them. Who is deserving of the highest honor, Arthur, who is humble amid prosperity, who sees that the rich who trust in their riches are ever going down, and so takes for his model the men who earn fortunes, rather than those who spend them; or Frank, who masters difficulties that are higher tests of manhood than battle ever knew? With so noble examples before them, that from above unfoxable *tapis*. Indeed the recognised law in that grand panorama was that "might makes right," and the weaker were continually falling victims to the strongest.

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"Time enough, patron," answered the *Capatar*. "Stop and hunt soon, get plenty."

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The angry reptile barely missed the craft. But he would not give up tamely, and followed rapidly, propelled by the sweep of his long tail, leering at the crew with his little wicked eyes.

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"He is very old and large, and has traveled much. No knowing how long he will follow us, patrons. He is very cunning. The way he watches us in front of him, he has tasted human flesh, and likes it well. He will follow us, and—*Munda !*"

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The stillness of the night was now broken by gusts of air, then the wind roared through the tree tops; the thunder sounded a chorus; the sky became as black as ink; the lightning flashes followed each other in quick succession, and strange cries of unknown creatures—birds, reptiles or animals, or all combined—mingled with the din of the elements, and added terror to the awful scene.

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Choice Miscellany.

For the Maine Farmer.

Incidents of the War.

In the month of May, 1864, immediately after the battle of the Wilderness in Virginia was fought, hospitals were established in Fredericksburg about twelve miles from the battlefield. There were hospitals for the different army corps, and the one for the cavalry corps (of the army of the Potomac) was a large, unfinished brick building, on the corner of Carolina and Hanover streets in Fredericksburg. This building, it was understood, had been intended for a tobacco warehouse, but the war had prevented its completion.

The narrator was one of the cavalry guards stationed at this hospital; dismounted cavalry who had come in with the wounded from the battlefield. The first detachment of our wounded that reached Fredericksburg, had been captured by Mayor Slaughter and sent on to Richmond as prisoners of war. This was after the Confederate military force had left the city, and we understood that the retaliation, 100 of the leading citizens had been sent under guard to Washington as hostages.

We remained at Fredericksburg about three weeks, the city meantime being under martial law, Col. Brown of the 3d N. Y. Cavalry Regiment having been appointed Provost Marshal, with his regiment as provost guard. During this time quite a number of heavy artillery regiments, which had been encamped at Washington and adjacent localities doing garrison duty, for periods varying from one to two years or more, were ordered to "the front" to take part in the hard fighting then going on, and on their march southward passed through Fredericksburg.

These regiments in numbers and appearance presented a striking contrast to those in the army of the Potomac, the latter being greatly reduced in numbers, owing to the hard service they had seen, presenting a weather-beaten appearance and clad in well-worn uniforms; while the former had from one thousand to eighteen hundred men in each regiment, dressed in new uniforms, and presenting a spruce appearance compared to the other men.

The streets of Fredericksburg at this time resounded also to the tramp of thousands of disconsolate and dejected men,—Confederate soldiers taken prisoners at the Wilderness and at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House. Upon them the Southern people gazed mournfully from the windows as they passed.

The writer may continue these reminiscences.

Wit, Humor, and Pleasantries.

A woman's beauty is most perfect when it is backed up by intelligence. A newspaper bustle is just the thing.

Men who take great interest in business matters—Note shavers.

Little Willie prayed long and ineffectually for a little brother. At last he gave it up as "no use." Soon after his mother had the pleasure of showing him twin babies. He looked at them a moment and then exclaimed: "How lucky it was that I stopped praying!" There might have been more!

In the primary schools of Albany, many of the little ones are accustomed to kiss their teachers at the close of school. The little colored girls kiss the teacher on one cheek, and the paleface darlings kiss her on the other.

On a downward course—Rain.

A society paper announces that as the "cape topcoats have been taken up by the women the men abandon them." If this policy is followed, as women encroach on men's fashions, in what exteunities will men yet be driven? Women now wear high top boots, riding trousers, vests, sack coats, linen cuffs, collars, shirt bosoms and cravats, and derby and silk "plug" hats.

They do not say "stomach ache" in Boston. "Gastric neuralgia" is the proper word, but it gets there all the same.

"Ballif," said an Arkansas judge one day last week, to the officer in charge of the prisoners, "ballif, I reckon it's best to hurry that there will be a horse race in Merrick's pasture at three o'clock." The jury had been out for 48 hours, but in less than 30 minutes they came into court with the a verdict.

TOO GOOD A PREACHER. "How do you like that new minister of yours?" asked Deacon Snagsby of Elder Berry.

"I'm afraid he's too powerful. We can't stand it."

"How's that?"

"Well, you see, he preached a trial sermon on salvation, and every unrepentant sinner in the audience came in front and joined the church. So we engaged him. The next Sunday he preached on the duty of marriage, and every old bachelor and widower in the congregation hooked on to an old maid and was married before Saturday night. He got a $5 fee out of every couple. But the worst came last Sunday. He preached upon the duty of giving all to the Lord, and I hanged if the sexton and deacons didn't sprain their backs carrying around the contribution baskets, they were so loaded down with silver. When the congregation was dismissed, it was just like Noah's Ark; there wasn't a mate to be had in the crowd. The house had all the money. We can't stand such eloquence."—*Washington Critic.*

AROUSING HIS AMBITION. "The boy is all right," said the doctor, "but you want to talk to him and arouse his ambition. Promise him that you will take him somewhere when he recovers sufficiently to go; talk to him about your own son." "Yes, the boys; there are lots of ways in which you can interest him."

Then the doctor addressed the boy, who was just recovering from a fever, saying:

"Come, Willie, cheer up, my boy; wouldn't you like to go and play tag with your playmates?"

A faint smile passed over the boy's face, but that was all.

"Stop, sir," said the father, "I'll arouse him. See here, Mickey, he asked, addressing the boy, wouldn't yez like to go out and trow a rock through a chineyman's windy."

The boy immediately sat up in bed and asked for his trousers.

"I thought that'ud fetch 'im," said the father with a proud smile, "he's all right, doctor dear."

Young Folks' Column.

Down the Amazon.

Twenty years ago two American youths crossed South America by means of the Amazon river. Leaving the Pacific coast they crossed the Andes without accident, and reached the head waters of the great river. Here they embarked, with the double purpose of adventure and obtaining specimens for a museum of New England fessor. That they found plenty of the former this simple narrative will show.

We find them, on the morning of an early March day, in a craft strange to the sight of a North American—a *galatea* made from the hollowed trunk of a gigantic *bombax ceiba*, or silk cotton tree, capable of carrying forty or fifty men with ample equipments. It had a sail, and a low-decked locker running from the bow to midships, and was provided with the usual cabin, or *toldo*, over the stern, or quarter-deck. This *toldo* was the strangest part of this strange *galatea*, except its crew of half-naked, half civilized Indians. In form it somewhat resembled the canvas covering of an emigrant wagon, but unlike that it was constructed of bamboos, and thatched with the long leaves of the *ethai*. The leaves of the *musacea* (plantains and bananas) also serve the same purpose, and both are used by the natives to thatch their rude huts.

This *toldo* was a shelter from sun and rain, and a protection from night dews. Upon its thatched roof the two white youths were half reclining, curiously watching the crew, or *tapuyos*, as they deftly handled the paddles, or talking to the *Capatas*, or chief of the *galatea*, as he stood abaft the *toldo*, steering the craft down the broad river.

To betoken his rank, this dark skinned captain wore a coarse cotton shirt in addition to the baggy trousers which were worn by his subordinates.

Besides this human crew, various monkeys clung to the yard and squatted upon the sides of the canoe, chattering in a familiar way that would have delighted Darwin. Brilliantly colored birds flitted about the mast, and added to the beauty of the tropical scene.

"Just think of the folks away up in Maine shivering with the cold, and wading through slush and snow. Doesn't it seem strange that we are really gliding down the Amazon? Blessings on the dear old Professor, who selected us, and sent us forth to win (not our fortunes, perhaps) renown in collecting specimens rare and unknown. We have succeeded well, too," said Augustus Winslow, the lightest and merriest of the two.

"It was lucky for us," answered Edwin Vaughn, closely watching the shores through his glass, and dreamily enjoying the strange sights—quadrupeds, birds, and reptiles, that presented a living panorama in the midst of a wonderfully luxuriant tropical forest. Now and then a flock of peaceful *caprybaras* would start suddenly from some sunny bank and plunge into the water. Then the cause of their alarm, a beautifully spotted jaguar, would stand upon the shore a moment and gaze at the canoe with its living freight, as if he would like to make a meal of some one of them. Huge *boa constrictors* lurked amid the clinging vines, and waited patiently until one of the chattering monkeys ventured near their retreat, or some brilliant winged bird alighted within the charmed circle. Great *anacondas*, scorning such small prey, dropped upon an unsuspecting deer, and crushed it in its folds, or waited for those more unfortunate *tapir*. Indeed the recognised law in that grand panorama was that "might makes right," and the weaker were continually falling victims to the strongest.

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Curious Things.

The "Vanishing Lady" Trick.

Everybody correctly guesses that a trap is used, but the investigator stops there defeated. The chair, the newspaper, the trap, the confederate below the stage and a bright, slim girl are the things that are used. The chair is not, as it looks, an ordinary article. It is of the heavy